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Islamic Affairs

Muslim Brotherhood Leader on U.S. 'Aggression'

LD2609113190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] A number of Muslim Brotherhood [Akhwan al-Muslimin] leaders from various Islamic countries arrived in Tehran today at noon. They were welcomed by the deputy head of the Islamic Publicity Organization, and deputies to the minister of foreign affairs. 'Abdul-Rahman Khalifah, the head of the delegation, was interviewed by a Muhammad reporter [as received]. He first explained the objectives of the delegation's visit to Tehran, and then went on to condemn U.S. aggression against the region. He said: This aggressive U.S. move has hurt the feelings of Muslims throughout the world; Muslims cannot remain indifferent to this important event. Continuing his remarks, the head of the Muslim Brotherhood delegation added: Next to the occupation of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first Qiblah [sanctuary toward which Muslims face for daily prayers] of Muslims, the Ka'abah, and other sacred Islamic sites have been objects of alien attacks. This aggression is not on an ad hoc [maqta'i] basis, and for Muslims it is deeply unpalatable. The United States and its allies, in an effort to attain their objectives, intend taking advantage of the vacuum created by the discord existing among the governments of the region.

In conclusion, 'Abdul-Rahman Khalifah, head of the Muslim Brotherhood delegation said: The members of the delegation have been selected to assess recent events. They will carefuly assess the dimensions of the catastrophe in their meetings with the Islamic ulema and the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Welcomes Mitterrand Mideast Proposals

JN2609191690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] The PLO has welcomed the proposals put forward by French President Francois Mitterrand before the UN General Assembly last Monday [24 September] on resolving the Arabian Gulf and the Middle East crises. An official Palestinian spokesman said this French position offers a peaceful, not military, solution to the Gulf crisis. It aims at creating a climate of peace in the region, and an atmosphere of effective regional and international cooperation with the aim of guaranteeing peace and security for the region's peoples.

AL-QUDS Editorial Staff Reportedly Resigns

JN2709062590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Sep 90 p 16

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—The chief editor and the editorial staff of the newspaper AL-QUDS, the mouthpiece of the Fatah Corrective Movement [led by 'Atallah 'Atallah, alias Abu-al-Za'im] have resigned in view of the fact that the Movement's leadership has failed to declare a frank and clear position on the Gulf crisis and the foreign aggression against Arab lands.

Algeria

Ben Bella, Family Arrive in Algiers 27 Sep

LD2709110190 Algiers APS in English 1013 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 27/9/90 (APS)—The first president of the independent Algeria arrived this morning to Algiers coming from Barcelona.

Ben Bella is accompanied of his family and 500 guests and political, cultural as well as artistic officials. Among them there are 100 journalists.

On his arrival he was welcomed by a committee constituted of a number of citizens from different provinces of the country.

Ghazali Meets With FRG, French Counterparts

LD2609111890 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] New York, 26 Sept (APS)—On the side lines of 45th session of the UN General Assembly, the Algerian foreign minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali had talks yesterday with the FRG and the French foreign ministers, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Roland Dumas.

Sid Ahmed Ghazali had an exchange of views with his Western German counterpart on the tragic evolution of the Gulf crisis as well as the means in favour of a peaceful political solution. In this respect Genscher qualified the Algerian position as being responsible and positive. Both ministers agreed to carry on bilateral contacts and consultations on international current questions.

On his turn Roland Dumas conveyed to Ghazali the French plan for a solution to the Gulf crisis, presented by President Francois Mitterrand in front of the UN General Assembly and he reported the concerns of his country in front of [as received] the development of the situation in the region. The Algerian foreign minister reaffirmed the attachment of Algeria to a peaceful solution and its contribution to the reassurance of the tension so as to promote and to preserve the Arab nation interests.

President Bendjedid Receives Party Leaders

LD2609123890 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 26 Sept (APS)—Following the audience granted by President Chadli Bendjedid to the chairman of the Oumma Party, Benkhedda, the latter declared that he examined with the head of state the situation prevailing in Algeria and the world and that they both gave a priority to the national [word indistinct].

Benkhedda precised "We have examined our points of view as regards the crisis in its economic, social and cultural aspects". He also added that the crisis is due to the fact that the Algerian people put aside the principles of November 1st and on which Algeria used to base itself, that is, solidarity, the sense of sacrifice and the link to Islamic values. Benkhedda also affirmed that thanks to the people's attachment to these principles they managed to come out victorious during the revolution.

Concerning the changes experienced by the country throughout the democratic process, Benkhedda precised that the new acquisitions operated at the level of the political liberties as well as the speech reform should be safeguarded and the necessity to safeguard also the unity of the "Ummah".

Benkhedda declared that he listened to the precisions given by the head of state as regards the situation in the Gulf which has been aggravated by the foreign presence.

President Chadli Bendjedid also received the chairman of the Popular Association for Unity and Action, Allalou Mehdi Abbes, who underlined that he examined with the head of state the current questions, notably the next legislative elections, the edification of the Arab Maghreb Union and the Gulf crisis which presents two aspects, one being positive because of the rise of the oil prices and the other as being negative with a risk of considerable risks.

National Assembly To Debate Election Laws

LD2609125190 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers, 26 Sept (APS)—At the exception of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), all the other political parties which want to have access to power, asked that the election mode used in the first elections in the era of multipartism be changed for the forthcoming legislative elections due in the first term of next year.

The election law in force called the proportial mode may enable a good representation of the currents that are better anchored in society but it has sense only in a structured society and capable of deploying a consensual strategy.

In the absence of a democratic culture and with a primitive multipartism, the proportional mode has proved an unfair mode which punished everybody. In this context, the minorities elected in the local and regional councils have had no effect on these councils. The essential reason is the lack of tradition in the field of cohabitation and also of the concept of power the political parties have and which is often similar in all the parties.

The People's National Assembly will resume its works on October 2. Deputies will mainly debate on the electoral mode and the possibility of introducing some amendments. Some members of the parliament are even very optimistic about the revision of the electoral law. The election mode is not the only thing contested in the electoral law.

Besides, there is also the necessity to revise formalities of acts by procuration included in this law. Some currents are thinking about the very supression of the procuration. However, every one is convinced that the assembly will determine the future election mode.

Ministers Discuss Nationals' Community in France

LD2609122890 Algiers APS in English 1123 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Algiers 26 Sept (APS)—Algeria and France agreed that it was necessary to place the question of the Algerian community in France in a "wider" frame than the one of the agreement signed in 1968 and related to the visits and life in France of Algerian citizens, a joint declaration issued at the end of the visit of the French minister of national solidarity, Claude Evin, pointed out.

The Algerian minister of social affairs and his French counterpart agreed to examine and implement measures likely to assure the social integration of Algerians living in France. The problems must be settled in a spirit of dialogue and consultation and this requires a new diplomatic agreement related to the various possible themes of cooperation related to the Algerian community in France or coming back to Algeria.

The two sides also agreed to develop cooperation, mainly in the field of training of specialists and the exchange of experiences. In this context, they agreed on an exchange of experts in the field of "organization and management of social protection" and on the promotion of training.

Moreover, the Algerian minister of health and Evin decided to give a new impulse to cooperation in the field of health. A particular attention will be granted to continuous medical training.

Islamic Militants Among Blida Prison Escapees

LD2609202690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Hello, ladies and gentlemen, we start the details [of this bulletin] with the Blida incident. According to an official source, about 100 prisoners fled at dawn today from Blida civil prison. Informed sources say there are about 15 Islamic militants among those who fled. These [15 prisoners] were imprisoned following the attack they launched against Blida court on 16 January last. The attack led to the killing of two members of the group and a gendarme. The circumstances in which the prisoners fled are still unknown. It is known that Blida court has ordered that investigations be opened. It was mentioned also that the security services have arrested two prisoners, and a third one surrendered following a short-lived pursuit operation. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Would Destroy Iraqi Missiles in Sudan

NC2709104990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1016 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Ismailia, 27 Sep (MENA)—In response to a question by a journalist, President Husni Mubarak has declared that if Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles were to be deployed in Sudan, he would immediately destroy them because he would countenance no "kidding" [hizar] in such matters that would affect Egyptian national security and his country's safety. He added: "I do not imagine that Sudan would accept the deployment of such missiles on its territory." This came in answer to reporter's questions this morning after he met with an Egyptian Armed Forces contingent leaving for Saudi Arabia.

Mubarak Calls for Referendum on People's Assembly

NC2609165190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Address by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to the nation; place, date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brother compatriots, states have different election systems which vary according to the circumstances of each state and its experiences. The Egyptian constitutional system has witnessed various formulas for and experiments with the election process. For a long time it applied the individual [fardi] election system. It then applied the election list and proportional representation system. Finally, it combined the two methods in one framework.

On 19 May, the Supreme Constitutional Court issued a ruling declaring unconstitutional Article V of law No. 38 for the year 1972, pertaining to the People's Assembly. That article stipulated that each constituency shall have one member elected by individual voting and that the remaining members representing the constituency shall be elected through voting for lists prepared by the parties.

To implement this ruling as a way of choosing among the various election systems and as a result of experience, it has been decided to revert to the individual voting system which our parliamentary life has used and to which it has long been accustomed. Toward this end I shall issue decrees having the force of law, amending some provisions of the People's Assembly law, specifying the electoral constituencies for the election of the People's Assembly members, and amending some of the law's provisions on the exercise of political rights. These decrees shall include the abrogation of the clause which the ruling of the

Supreme Constitutional Court declared unconstitutional and the introduction of the individual election system for electing People's Assembly members, in accordance with the controls specified by the Constitution.

In view of this situation, with its constitutional dimensions and its political ramifications, I have found it necessary for the People's Assembly to be restructured according to this new concept. The Constitution is the reference point for regulating the state's power, and its provisions alone draw up the outlines of these powers to ensure balance among them so that they may play their part in national action. In adherence to the provisions of the Constitution; out of loyalty to the oath which I took to respect the Constitution; to avoid constitutional precedents which are not based on legal texts; to uphold the supremacy of the law, a supremacy which we must not relinquish; and out of respect for the court's rulings, whose importance we recognize and which we must not circumvent or interpret as we like—because of all this, I have decided to go to the people, who alone are sovereign and the source of powers, to seek their opinion in a referendum on dissolving the People's Assembly. I have issued a decree to halt the People's Assembly sessions as of today and to call registered voters to vote on 11 October 1990 in a referendum on dissolving the People's Assembly.

We declare this in order to give our masses the chance to truly acquaint themselves with the reasons for the referendum on which they are called to express an opinion. We stress that constitutional options must be based on the Constitution, whose clauses are a guide. The people alone are the source of all power, and they alone have the final say. May God grant us and you success, and may God's peace, mercy, and blessing be with you.

'Abd-al-Majid Views UN Air Embargo Resolution

NC2609174290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 26 sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described the UN Security Council's resolution imposing an air embargo against Iraq as important. He said it is one in the series of resolutions which the council has adopted since the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait began.

He noted that this resolution complements previous UN Security Council resolutions. Once again, he said, this resolution proves the international community's determination to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and confirms solidarity and cohesion within the framework of the United Nations against this aggression.

In a statement today, he said that even though Egypt is not a member of the Security Council, it is committed to respecting and implementing the council's resolutions in accordance with Article 25 of the UN Charter.

'Abd-al-Majid expressed his hope that these resolutions will end the Gulf crisis and that the economic sanctions will produce results conducive to a solution that asserts international demands for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait.

Ambassador to Kuwait Returns, Makes Statement

NC2709050690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Egypt's Ambassador to Kuwait Sa'id Rif'at and some of the Egyptian Embassy staff members in Kuwait returned to Cairo from Amman this afternoon.

In an arrival statement about the situation Kuwait has been suffering since the Iraqi invasion, the ambassador said Iraq is implementing an organized plan to change the demographic composition of Kuwait.

He added that a large number of Iraqis are being settled in Kuwait, replacing the Kuwaitis who are leaving the country in view of the difficult conditions they are experiencing. He pointed out that foodstuffs are running out in Kuwait and that life there has become disorganized, with the exception of general services and the services of petroleum engineers and doctors.

He noted that more than 180,000 Egyptians have left Kuwait since the beginning of the Iraqi invasion and that 15,000 to 25,000 are still in Kuwait.

He said that after they were occupied by Iraqi forces, Kuwaiti banks remained closed for about 10 days. After living conditions deteriorated because of bankruptcy, he added, the banks began to disburse 30 to 50 Kuwaiti dinars weekly to each Egyptian who had an account with these banks, but this system ended recently due to the lack of cash.

He noted that after leaving Kuwait, he spent 14 days in Baghdad during which he felt there was incitement of feelings against the Egyptians, but that this did not affect the Iraqi people's behavior toward Egyptians there.

Trade Activities With Sudan Reportedly Suspended

NC2609203690 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 24 Sep 90 p 11

[Text] The Egyptian Government has suspended all its current trade contacts and activities with the Sudanese military leadership represented by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's government. It also expelled a number of Sudanese officers and military experts who had been attending military and academic courses at academies and military institutes in Egypt. In addition, the government blocked the shipping to Sudan of some consignments of food and medical supplies agreed upon under the trade protocol between the two countries.

Al-Bashir's government queried Cairo on the reasons for these measures. Cairo replied by saying that its position is in line with the stand that Sudan has adopted toward Egypt, particularly its latest position of abstaining from attending the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo called to announce the transfer of the Arab League General Secretariat from Tunis to Cairo. At first the Sudanese Foreign Ministry promised the Egyptian Government that it would send Foreign Minister 'Ali Shammu to the meeting so that the necessary quorum required for the league transfer to Egypt might be ensured. However, two days before the meeting the Sudanese Foreign Ministry refused to participate, thus causing extreme embarrassment to the Egyptian Government, which had to search for another Arab state willing to attend.

Portugese Air Force Chief of Staff Arrives

NC2709053890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2113 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Sep (MENA)—Consida Silva [name as received], chief of staff of the Portuguese Air Force, arrived in Cairo tonight for a visit to Egypt lasting two days.

The Portuguese military official was welcomed by the Portuguese ambasador in Cairo and senior officers of the Egyptian Air Force.

Organizations Condemn Iraqi Reports on Women

NC2609211290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1406 GMT 26 sep 90

[Text] Egyptian women's committees and organizations have condemned the triviality of the Iraqi media, the organizations of certain Arab countries which are in orbit around Iraq, and their statements against the Egyptian woman.

The Egyptian women's organizations stressed that the attempts to promote rumors about 5,000 Egyptian ladies' being in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to service the foreign forces are a cheap method to assail Egypt and the Egyptians, and are rejected by Arab minds and Islamic logic.

The women's organizations also expressed regret at the Tunisian media's stooping to participate in the attack on Egyptian woman, ignoring the Egyptian people's and women's history of struggle. The Egyptian women's organizations urged the authorities concerned to confront these cheap propaganda methods firmly and expose their aim of covering up Iraq's military invasion of Kuwait.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Asked To Help Release UN Hostages

LD2609135990 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a message from the chairman of the UN employees commission [name indistinct], in which he urges the brother leader to intervene personally to help in securing of the release of U.N. employees held hostage. In his message to the brother leader, the chairman of the UN employees commission said: We appeal to you on the bases of [words indistinct] to help with the release of those colleagues who are working for the cause of peace and the United Nations. We are certain that you understand the tragic nature of this situation, and that you will intervene and do everything that is possible to secure the release of UN employees, wherever they may be held.

GPC Secretary Receives DPRK Vice Premier

LD2609221990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee [GPC] conferred at Sirte this morning with Kim Tal-Hyon, vice premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. They examined during this meeting, which was attended by the Korean ambassador to the great Jamahiriyah, aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries and the means for bolstering them.

The vice premier of Democratic Korea visited this morning Sirte's second reservoir of the great man-made river and listened to specialists' extensive illustrations on the implementation of such a project.

Morocco

Daily Interviews Argentine Minister on Ties

LD2509135390 Rabat MAP in English 1234 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Casablanca, Sept. 25 (MAP)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, who recently visited Morocco, underlined the similarity of the Argentine and Moroccan positions towards the Gulf crisis.

In an interview with the Casablanca-based 'MAROC SOIR' daily, Cavallo recalled the position of his country which consists in condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and requiring the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

The foreign minister also paid tribute to the "shrewd strategist" he sees in King Hassan II and said his talks with members of the Moroccan Government were "very fruitful and positive".

He further expressed hope to see Moroccan-Argentine relations develop and stated, regarding the Sahara issue, that the Republic of Argentina was "for the referendum which will be conducted under the UNO [United Nations Organization] umbrella".

Sudan

Government To Reinforce Egyptian, Saudi Ties

AB2609211490 Paris AFP in French 1328 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Sep (AFP)—Sudan intends to develop and reinforce its ties with Egypt and Saudi Arabia while maintaining good relations with all Arab countries, Colonel Salah Eddine Karrar, member of the ruling military junta in Khartoum, stated. "Relations have never been so strong among Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt," he told the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY, SUNA. The recent Arab differences at the Cairo summit over the invasion of Kuwait "were not the first and will not be the last," he added.

During the Cairo summit, Sudan refused to condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The Sudanese clarification comes soon after Saudi Arabia expelled diplomats from Jordan and Yemen, two Arab countries which, in addition to Sudan, supported Iraq in the Gulf crisis.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Meets With PLO's 'Arafat

LD2609224290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Before we start our roundup of the news reports on the Gulf crisis, we would like to recall President Ben Ali's meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who stated that their talks dealt with the development of the crisis and the efforts being exerted to find an Arab solution to such a crisis, a solution that would safeguard the Arab nation's achievements, future, and security.

Bahrain

Heir, Defense Minister Meet U.S. Marines' Gray

JN2509195690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Bahrain, 25 Sep (WAKH)— His Highness Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, met in Manama today with U.S. Marines Commander General Alfred Gray, currently visiting Bahrain.

The latest developments in the Arabian Gulf and bilateral cooperation were discussed in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force; Shaykh Khalid Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of his highness the heir apparent's offices; Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Salaman Al Khalifah; and Charles Hostler, U.S. ambassador to Bahrain.

The defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force also met with the U.S. Marines Commander in Manama today.

They discussed the current developments in the region and the developments in the Gulf arena in addition to coordination with the friendly forces in the region.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Speaks at UN Security Council

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

LD2709093990 London KUNA in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Excerpts] New York, 26 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah today stressed that the unanimous decision of the Security Council regarding the air embargo on Iraq has surely indicated that the battle is now between the rulers of Iraq on the one hand and the entire world on the other. [passage omitted]

He said in a speech he delivered at a Security Council session at its headquarters in New York which was exclusively devoted to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, that negotiations with Iraq can only begin after Iraq accepts frankly and without ambiguity the resolutions of the Council and begins to implement them. [passage omitted]

The text of the speech is as follows:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr. Chairman:

It is a cause for pride and esteem to see you dear friend presiding over this historic session of the Security Council while you represent your great country—the Soviet Union—which shoulders with all the responsibility and ability its distinguished role in safeguarding world peace and security and in rejecting and resisting aggression.

I also extend my greetings and feelings of loyalty to my colleagues the foreign ministers of the Security Council member states, who have proved, by their personal attendance at this meeting, their sure resolve to employ the abilities of the Security Council and its jurisdiction under the Charter in implementing its resolutions in a manner that saves the area and its nations from the disasters of destruction the extent of which no one knows.

Mr. Chairman, at this time of participating with you in this session, my memory takes me back to another historic session when I had the honor of representing my country as a member of your council; then, we voted in favor of Resolution 425 containing the draft plan for Namibia's independence on 29 September 1978, and despite the natural change in the membership of the Council I notice today that the determination and resolve of the Council has not changed in implementing the aims of the Charter to promote a world free from the use of force in solving disputes.

Mr. Chairman:

Today I come carrying the greetings of the Kuwaiti Government and people. [passage omitted]

Mr. Chairman:

Today's resolution, which is the eighth since the beginning of the Iraqi criminal aggression and the occupation of Kuwait, stresses anew that the battle is between Iraq on the one hand, and the rest of the world on the other hand. The rejection, arrogance, and disregard expressed by those [Iraqi] rulers toward your resolutions have transfered the aggression from being an aggression against a single country to an aggression against the civilized world and its values and traditions. The world can no longer accept the continuation of the Iraqi aggression without forcing Iraq, using all the means available in the UN Charter, to submit to the international will and withdraw all its forces from the soil of my beloved country, without any prior conditions, so that the legitimate government returns to practice its duties, and thereby spares the region the sufferings of civil war.

The economic sanctions imposed on Iraq are definitely not an aim in themselves, but they are a peaceful means to achieving an aim, which is to make Iraq implement the binding resolutions of your honorable Council. Therefore, the sanctions, whatever their negative effects on the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples and on some other countries and peoples might be, would be an acceptable alternative if they led to the complete implementation of the resolutions of the UN Security Council, because the whole world insists that the aggressor should not benefit from his aggression.

Esteemed chairman, your Council's resolutions; especially resolutions 660, 663, and 664; constitute the limits which should not be exceeded. None of these resolutions should be abandoned, and there should be no negotiations over their [words indistinct]. We shall under no circumstances accept any action by any entity which is not premised on their [the resolutions'] substance, core, or letter. [passage omitted]

Cooperation with Iraq should not begin until after Iraq accepts sincerely and without preconditions the resolutions of the Council and begins to implement them.

We are here entitled to ask: "Was that not the principal demand of Iraq itself on Iran, regarding Security Council Resolution 598?" [passage omitted] Mr. Chairman:

As it confirmed in its current resolution that the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians During Wartime applies, your honorable Council is deciding that Iraq, as the occupying force, is fully responsible for the behavior of its forces and for all its policies in Kuwait and against the people of Kuwait who are under occupation. Therefore, the Iraqi Government is legally bound to shoulder all responsibility for the destruction, ruin, and theft to which the Kuwait public or private economic and social structures have been exposed. The Iraqi Government is also legally bound to pay full compensation for the destruction inflicted on Kuwait.

Mr. Chairman:

We noticed suspicious attempts by some countries and quarters to find side issues away from the essence of the Iraqi aggression, trying to distract attention to them. In this concern, Kuwait would like to stress that the essence of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait is that it continues to occupy Kuwait and to stop the legitimate government from returning. Anything else is a side effect of the aggression. When the occupation ends, and all the Kuwaiti territories are liberated from the desecration of the aggressor and the legitimate government returns, then all the side effects, whatever they might be, will necessarily disappear. [passage omitted]

Army Major Resistance 'Hero' Cites Successes

PM2709100990 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 22 Sep 90 p 2

[Report by Jamal al-Juhaydili: "AL-ANBA' Meets Kuwaiti Resistance Hero"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpts] One of the resistance heroes, a major in the Kuwaiti Army, has confirmed that the Kuwaiti resistance organized its ranks as early as the first day of the criminal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and that the Kuwaiti Army has played and is still playing an important part in the resistance operations, displaying heroism and making many sacrifices.

He told AL-ANBA' that he visited Cairo recently for a military reason connected with Kuwaiti resistance operations and said that he would return in the same secret way he came out. [passage omitted]

[Al-Juhaydili] What is your frank assessment of the Kuwaiti resistance so far?

[Answer] From my own experience and from my contacts with my Kuwaiti brothers and sisters in the resistance, I say that our people are carrying out organized commando operations which have struck terror into the hearts of the Iraqi troops. Iraqi soldiers are afraid to venture out alone, and they only move in groups on the streets and roads of Kuwait. That is an indication that they no longer feel safe. [passage omitted]

Under heavy attacks by the resistance, Iraqi soldiers have begun to surrender. Some of them have deserted and joined our ranks. Some of them have entered Kuwaiti homes, laid down their arms, and asked for some civilian clothes to wear; and some of them have fled across the Saudi borders.

[Al-Juhaydili] Does the resistance depend on Kuwaitis only, or are there others?

[Answer] The resistance does not depend on any particular group. The resistance ranks include every honorable person who has lived in that good land. That does not necessarily mean that everyone has to take up arms. It is sufficient to just play a part, any part, to demonstrate one's love for and loyalty to Kuwait. I say that many groups are helping us and they do so not in one particular way but in various ways. [passage omitted]

[Al-Juhaydili] What about the resistance's leadership, financing, and the powers behind it?

[Answer] All I can say in this connection is that everything is proceeding according to a precise, sound plan and that all the operations are carried out through legitimate Kuwaiti leadership. There is no need to go into details of financing and armament because these are secrets which will be revealed one day, and that will be something to be proud of. It will be said: Kuwait resisted, stood fast, and knew how to play its part in this important matter and in the liberation of its chaste land.

Oman

Pakistan's Jatoi Arrives for One-Day Visit

JN2609144190 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Excellency Pakistani Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi arrived in the country at noon today on a one-day visit to the Sultanate as part of a tour in the region. [passage omitted]

Denies Reinforcing Gulf Troops

NC2609210190 Paris AFP in English 2024 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Salalah, Oman, Sept 26 (AFP)—Acting Pakistani Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi on Wednesday [26 September] denied reports that his country was sending an armored brigade to Saudi Arabia to bolster Pakistani troops already there.

"There is nothing as such," Mr. Jatoi insisted when asked whether Pakistan was reinforcing its 5,000 infantry troops in the Gulf.

Mr. Jatoi, who arrived Wednesday in the Omani town of Salalah, is on a brief visit for talks with senior officials on the Gulf crisis, officials and informed sources said.

He met with the Omani leader, Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and delivered a letter from Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on the situation resulting from Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and international efforts aimed at securing an Iraqi troop withdrawal, they said.

Mr. Jatoi told reporters Pakistani forces in Saudi Arabia would be part of an Islamic contingent and in no way operate under U.S. command. Pakistan is participating in the multi-national troop buildup in the Gulf.

This is Mr. Jatoi's second Gulf tour in less than three weeks. He previously visited Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia.

The acting premier is accompanied by a 30-strong Pakistani delegation including Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and was to fly on to Qatar before heading for Dubayy in the UAE.

He is to discuss with Gulf officials oil supplies to his country in the wake of the Iraqi invasion.

Pakistan imported 60 per cent of its oil—80,000 barrels per day—from pre-invasion Kuwait but recently signed an agreement to secure the petroleum it needs from Saudi Arabia, Pakistani diplomatic sources said.

The acting premier's Gulf tour is meant to "express Pakistan's solidarity with its Arab brethren states facing the Gulf crisis," the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN news agency reported.

Qatar

Iranian Envoy Meets With Minister of Justice

LD2009163890 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Doha Nasrollah Mirza'i Nasir met with Qatar's Minister of Justice Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Sayf al Thani Thursday [20 September] and discussed bilateral relations.

The Qatari minister referred to the traditional relations and deep-rooted bonds between the two neighbouring Muslim countries and called for further expansion of bilateral cooperation in judicial fields.

He also said that his country was ready to sign a judicial protocol with Iran.

The Iranian ambassador called for unity among the world Muslims and cooperation among the Islamic countries.

Saudi Arabia

French Helicopter Regiment Relocates From Yanbu

LD2609120890 Paris Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Excerpt] The French forces are beginning to change position and to leave the port of Yanbu. Alain Menargues is on the spot:

[Menargues] At 0600 today—0500 Paris time—10 Gazelles and three Pumas [helicopters] rapidly took off from Yanbu airport and went off, their noses level with the sun, toward the red ochre mountains which cross the horizon in the northeast. Behind these are 200 km of desert and the King Khalid Military City base which is 180 km from the Iraqi border. It is here that the 5th Combat Helicopter Regiment [word indistinct] will be deployed. [passage omitted]

Paper Hails USSR Stance on Gulf Crisis, Ties

PM2409134590 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 18 Sep 90 p 6

[Editorial: "The Soviet Change and the Saudi Response"]

[Text] One of Saddam Husayn's miscalculations when he invaded Kuwait was that he banked on the Soviet position. Saddam thought that Moscow would not go beyond urging Washington and all other parties to exercise self-restraint or urging negotiations for the settlement of the crisis under the cover of which every attempt to get the Security Council to pass a resolution condemning the invasion and requesting withdrawal would be aborted, or that it might summon the Iraqi ambassador to the foreign ministry to convey to him the government's condemnation of Saddam's sudden move which embarrassed Mocow and tell him that some coordination should have preceded that step.

It never occurred to Saddam Husayn that Moscow would stand firm against his aggression or that it would help the Security Council pass seven unprecedented resolutions in under six weeks.

It never occurred to Saddam Husayn that Moscow would react to his maneuvers with a firm ultimatum from Gorbachev, perhaps unprecedented inasfar as the brief grace period given, for Soviet leader Gorbachev gave

Saddam Husayn only 90 minutes to announce his acceptance of the Security Council resolutions requesting immediate unconditional withdrawal and restoration of the Kuwaiti legitimate authorities, or Moscow would vote in favor of a draft resolution imposing strong sanctions against Baghdad. Saddam asked for four days, but Gorhachev kept his word, and after only 90 minutes Moscow had made up its mind and decided to go along with the rest of the Security Council members in imposing sanctions against Saddam Husayn.

Moscow could have abstained on all seven Security Council resolutions which would still have been adopted without a veto and have allowed Moscow to maintain a hair's link with Saddam Husayn, but Moscow, in essence, chose to take the side of principles. The Iraqi invasion was a violation of territorial integrity just as it was a violation of the principle of people's right to self-determination and of all the principles of international legitimacy and of the UN Charter and human rights.

It is true that Moscow had a friendship and cooperation treaty with Iraq and it is also true that the Soviet Union was Iraq's main source of arms, but it is also true that the Soviet Union, with its international responsibilities as a superpower, could not tolerate the breach of the principles of international legitimacy and could not permit the law of the jungle to prevail as we approach the end of the 20th century.

The Soviet position on the invasion was the biggest blow to Saddam Husayn because that position contributed to the international consensus against the Iraqi invasion and to the tightening of international measures against Iraq. It was clear at the Helsinki summit that Moscow was willing to use all means to establish international legitimacy and force Iraq to withdraw.

Moscow's attitude toward the current Gulf crisis was not the main motive behind the Kingdom's decision to restore diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, but it was a clear confirmation of the extent and magnitude of the changes which have occurred both in Soviet policies and in the Soviet Union itself, much in harmony with the Kingdom's policies and much in tune with the requirements of strong and constructive relations between the two countries.

That position has also increased the chances of a new, more effective international order in which relations between influential forces would shift from confrontation to participation in the protection of that order and of the principles of international legitimacy.

The Kingdom's decision to restore diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union will always be an example of the skill of this country's leadership and its deep awareness of a changing world which should be dealt with efficiently and effectively to protect the Kingdom's vital interests and also to confirm commitment to the firm principles which this homeland's leaderships have upheld since the first founder, his majesty the late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God have mercy on his soul. The test of principles imposed by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on the whole world has confirmed Moscow's credibility. The importance of the Soviet role in any war and peace equation has also been confirmed despite the international changes that have occurred.

If the changes within the Soviet Union are moving toward dumping ideologies and upholding human rights and the rights of Soviet Muslims to perform their religious rites and communicate with their brothers in the Islamic world freely and without any restrictions, and if these changes have removed major obstacles from the path of Saudi-Soviet relations, the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Soviet position on the current Gulf crisis demonstrate conclusively that Moscow has changed indeed, and, in appreciation of this change and in the service of the interests of both the Saudi and Soviet peoples, relations between the two countries should take a course reflecting that appreciation and responding to these interests.

United Arab Emirates

Ershad Comments on Muslim Asian Gulf Initiative

NC2309123790 Paris AFP in English 1157 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 23 (AFP)—Muslim states in Asia are trying to formulate an initiative to secure an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, Bangladesh President Hussain Ershad said here Sunday. "It's a joint initiative of six Muslim countries in Asia which will supplement those already undertaken by other countries," Mr. Ershad told reporters at the end of a 24-hour visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The plan involves Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives and Pakistan, Mr. Ershad said, adding that it was approved in his talks here with UAE President Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

"The first condition is that Iraq must vacate Kuwait and the legitimate government be restored in Kuwait," the Bangladeshi president said. Negotiations could then follow on resolving Iraq's oil and border disputes with Kuwait.

Mr. Ershad said a final draft of the plan was being prepared based on talks between leaders of the Asian countries. "I hope we will soon reach a consensus on this issue and then our formulations can be forwarded to Iraq," he said.

The Bangladeshi leader, whose country has decided to send 5,000 troops to defend Saudi Arabia, said however he would not visit Iraq until its unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. Quoted earlier by the Emirates news agency WAM, the president said Dhaka would send additional troops as part of the multinational force in the Gulf if Riyadh made such a request. Two thousand Bangladeshi troops have already been deployed in Saudi Arabia.

'May Send' More Troops to Gulf

NC2309093390 Paris AFP in English 0852 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 23 (AFP)—Bangladesh may send additional troops to Saudi Arabia as part of a multinational force in the country if Riyadh made such a request, the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] news agency WAM reported Sunday. Bangladesh has dispatched troops "to defend the sacred territories of Islam", the agency quoted President Hussain Ershad as saying at a press conference here.

Mr. Ershad arrived here Saturday for two days of talks on the Gulf crisis after visits to Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Mr. Ershad has pledged that a total of 5,000 Bangladeshi soldiers and officers will join contingents from other Muslim nations to deter a possible Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia following its August 2 invasion of Kuwait. Two thousand Bangladeshi troops have already been deployed in the region.

Bangladesh along with five other Asian nations "prepared an Islamic initiative calling for Iraq to withdraw (from Kuwait) and for Kuwaiti sovereignty to be re-established", Mr. Ershad said. The two points were necessary steps prior to talks between Iraq and Kuwait on a settlement of their dispute, he added.

The Islamic initiative stipulates that the Iraqi pullout must be unconditional. Dhaka gets most of its crude oil from the Emirates, where thousands of expatriate Bangladeshi nationals work. The UAE announced Friday it would help with the repatriation of Asian refugees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait into Jordan and Turkey by chartering planes.

Yemen

Salih Says Economic Embargo 'Declaration of War'

EA1809172290 Khartoum SUNA in English 1014 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Khartoum, 18th September (SUNA)—General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen said his country was still in contact with Sudan and other Arab countries, including those involved in the Gulf conflict, for an Arab solution to the crisis. In an interview published here Tuesday [18 September], President 'Ali said military solution to the crisis is now discarded after foreign powers have achieved their goals through their presence and control of the Gulf region.

Gen Salih said the economic embargo against Iraq is in itself a declaration of war "because there is no difference between dying of hunger or by a bullet." The Yemeni president said his country was against the food and drug embargo on Iraq.

The Yemeni president said there was previous plans for inflaming the Gulf region and diverting attention from the Arab-Israeli conflict. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said his country does not bargain with causes of the Arab nation. He refuted reports that the his [as received] has been paid so as to choose its current positon with regard to the Gulf crisis. He said these were rumours aiming to tranch [as received] his country's stance for an Arab solution to the conflict.

Salih Regrets Saudi Decision on Expatriates

JN2609153090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The weekly SAWT AL-'UMMAL publishes in today's issue the text of the interview with Brother Lietenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. [passage omitted]

Regarding the measures taken to overcome the economic damage inflicted on our country as a result of the Gulf crisis and the conditions of the brother expatriates in particular, the brother president explained that this important issue was discussed in detail and with interest in the Presidential Council. It was also discussed at the expanded joint meeting of the Presidential Council and the cabinet.

The government was tasked with drawing up plans and taking urgent measures to deal with the damage caused by the crisis in the region, especially in the economic field, since the crisis has hurt the national economy. An initial assessment of this damage exceeded $1.6 billion, in addition to the negative consequences of the crisis on our expatriates, whether on those who returned from Kuwait due to the current developments of the crisis or those who are presently in countries in the region, particularly those in Saudi Arabia. We deeply regret Saudi Arabia's recent decision to cancel privileges given to the Yemeni nationals in Saudi Arabia. These privileges stemmed from the special, fraternal relationship that has linked the two sisterly countries and peoples. We see no reason for this decision which will not serve brotherhood or good-neighborly relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Al-Dali Explains Gulf Stance to Security Council

JN2709080090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, delivered our country's speech to the Security Council session last night. He stressed that the Arab region is volatile thanks to the deadlock reached by efforts to bring about a just peace in the region and to the obstacles created by some forces. These forces are today calling desperately for principles that we have long called for to settle the Middle East conflicts, especially the questions of the Palestinian Arab people, southern Lebanon, and the Syrian Golan Heights.

If the disaster were to take place, Dr. al-Dali said, the new world order, which represents the hope of the future, would clearly collapse while in its beginning as a result of this serious military escalation in the region. This bleak picture of the massive, limitless dangers of the war, he said, dictates that we all rule out this option and painstakingly endeavor to encourage peaceful action and achieve the hoped-for results. He underlined the need for and usefulness of peaceful means to handle the crisis between the brothers in Iraq and Kuwait.

Dr. al-Dali reasserted that the Republic of Yemen will continue its efforts to contain the crisis between the two friendly countries, proceeding from the belief that peaceful and fraternal Arab action is the correct and effective method to end the crisis in the required manner. He stressed the importance of the Security Council's making responsible assessments of the serious developments in our region, giving attention and support to peaceful efforts, and adopting resolutions and measures that effectively and positively help bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis and a withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. The resolutions adopted by the Council should not continue to be merely hopes or justification for war; they should be translated into action along the road of peace.

Dr. al-Dali said: Out of our firm belief in this, we propose a draft resolution calling on all sides, including the states of the region, to intensify efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, and entrusting the UN secretary-general to exert his good offices with the concerned parties in light of his vision and conceptions of the realities with a view to bringing about a peaceful solution to the crisis. The minister called on fraternal Iraq to comply with the efforts aimed at achieving political settlement of the crisis. He said that our country has repeatedly stressed in the Security Council its position on all aspects of the crisis between the two sisterly countries, Iraq and Kuwait.

The minister added: In order to refute any deliberate distortion of our position by some circles, we would like to stress that the bases governing our country's policy toward the crisis can be summed up in a number of points: Our country did not and will not acknowledge the principle of the acquisition of territories of others by force; it did not support Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Our country will also continue its efforts toward an Arab solution to the crisis—a solution that takes into account the causes of the crisis. Our country, on the other hand, does not acknowledge seeking assistance from foreign forces, no matter what the causes. Our country also stresses its adherence to Security Council Resolution 661. Promoting rumors and lies against Yemen and its role in the crisis, therefore, reflects bad intentions toward our country, he added.

Dr. al-Dali concluded by saying that our country is today taking part in the movement toward a new world order in an important historical moment. Yemeni unity was achieved by peaceful and democratic means. The unity was established on the strong basis of a democratic constitution allowing multiplicity of ideas and thoughts and freedom of expression, including political opposition. Thus, the foundation for a new democratic system in our region has been laid.

Comparison to Saddam Letter to America 26 Sep

JN2609160790

Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic at 1030 GMT on 26 September carries a "full recording" of Saddam Husayn's message to the American people. The Baghdad radio version has been compared with the INA version published in the 26 September Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pp 22-29, revealing the following variations:

Page 28, column one, paragraph three, sentence three reads: If he loses wisdom, even if he possesses strength and vitality, he will lose human respect and... (changing wording).

Page 28, column one, paragraph five, last sentence reads: ...the oil reserves. [new paragraph] You, and all of us, should ask Bush: Will Iraq drink the oil, or sell it? Iraq sells its oil... (adding sentence).

Page 29, column one, paragraph one, sentence one reads: Mr. Bush has to promise you in advance, however... (replacing "U.N." with "you")

Report, Reaction on UN Air Traffic Resolution

Radio Report

JN2609121890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1155 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Within the framework of the unjust measures being taken by the Security Council against Iraq upon the directives of the hostile policy of U.S. President Bush, the Council adopted a resolution at dawn today banning air traffic from and to Iraq. In this unjust resolution, given number 670, the Council asks the countries of the world not to allow any plane to take off from its region if it carries any cargo to Iraq and Kuwait or to either of them, except for foodstuffs, allowed under humanitarian circumstances and with the permission of the Council or the committee established in pursuance of Resolution No. 661.

Salih Comments

NC2609090690 Paris AFP in English 0858 GMT 26 September 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 26 (AFP)—A United Nations embargo on air traffic to and from Iraq "is certain to increase Iraq's economic difficulties," parliamentary Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih acknowledged here Wednesday.

The new restrictions, approved Tuesday by the Security Council as part of a campaign to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, "are a new challenge not only to Iraq but also to morality and international law," Mr. Salih charged in a statement to AFP.

Women Protest at U.S. Embassy

NC2609155990 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 26 (AFP)—Several hundred women gathered outside the U.S. Embassy here Wednesday to denounce an embargo on air traffic to and from Iraq approved by the United Nations Security Council, correspondents said.

Demonstrators carried portraits of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and banners that read: "No to the embargo. No to the blockade."

The Council, by a vote of 14 to one, on Tuesday approved the measure as part of a campaign to roll back the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The latest sanction, which does not apply to passenger traffic, is to operate in tandem with a land and sea blockade that is patrolled by an armada of U.S. and Western warships in the Gulf.

One of the women held up a huge doll, representing a baby, with an empty milk bottle to underline what Baghdad terms "the American- Zionist plot aimed at depriving Iraqi babies of milk."

Traffic was briefly halted in the neighborhood around the embassy when drivers stopped to monitor a noisy discussion between demonstrators and embassy staff members, reporters said.

Spokesman Views Bush Statement to Arab Americans

JN2509134590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1138 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Commenting on Bush's statement [to Arab Americans on 24 September], an authorized spokesman has stated the following:

Bush, as usual, has confused reality with his desires and hopes. And as usual, he revealed his ideas in a very blurred manner. At one point, he stressed the importance of dialogue and that he had no objection to it, when asked about this by Arab American representatives. On the other hand, he presumed that a dialogue be bound to preconditions that represent Bush's desires or preconceptions. Bush described the Iraqi leadership in a manner which also represents his desires and wishes.

We expected that Bush would make use of the available information and facts to rectify his preconceptions or dashed hopes. However, his feeling of dictatorial power over the weaker peoples of the world and against world countries has made him, it seems, describe others in this way. In any case, Iraq, along with all the honorable, aware, and steadfast sons of the Arab nation, insists on a live, active link between all the problems in the region, foremost of which is the question of Palestine, if the aim is to stabilize the region and solve its causes in a radical, just, and fair solution. The initiative of 12 August 1990 is on the right path to achieving this if the intention is to use international efforts seriously and in an unbiased manner to solve all these issues objectively.

However, if the object is to solve what is called the Gulf crisis on its own, then the Arabs are more capable of dealing with their own affairs and solving them in a way that guarantees the interests of the Arab nation and stability in the region—if intentions are honest and the region rids itself of the pressures and threats of Bush's fleets, armies, and aides, who have fallen with him into the abyss of this evil stand.

As for the issue of foreigners who are banned from travel, this question is easy to resolve if Bush and his supporters pledge not to attack Iraq. The 19 August 1990 initiative provides a sound solution to this urgent humanitarian problem if Bush positively deals with that initiative.

Ministry Responds to Egyptian Murder Allegations

JN2609180290 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1645 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has refuted the campaign of slander and cheap lies launched by the Egyptian regime to make the Egyptian people hate the Iraqi people and leadership.

In a statement to INA this evening, the spokesman said that the campaign of deception and harm led by the Husni [Mubarak] regime and its henchmen is merely a continuation of a previous campaign, in which the same cheap allegations were made with the purpose of creating a crack in the fraternal ties of cooperation existing between the two fraternal peoples to serve the interests of Zionists, imperialists, and other enemies of the Arab nation. The text of the Foreign Ministry spokesman reads as follows:

Once again, the Egyptian regime resorts to the propagation of cheap and ugly lies, with the aim of inciting the fraternal Egyptian people and making them foster hatred against the Iraqi people and their militant leadership, which took the Egyptian brothers in their arms and offered them the best possible care, motivated by the pan-Arab principles in which they believe and which they adhere to in their dealings with all Arab brothers who come to reside and work in Iraq.

The Egyptian masses, before any others, as well as the Arab masses throughout the greater homeland, know from their militant awareness and past experience that the Egyptian leaders have sought, through the lies they propagated, to cover up their disgraceful position that facilitated the U.S. scheme to invade Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Arabian Gulf states, and also to cover up for the dispatch of Egyptian troops to fight alongside the U.S. and Atlantic troops which desecrated our Arab and Islamic sanctities and massed troops for an aggression against steadfast Iraq and the Arab nation.

The campaign of deception and damage led by the Husni regime, its henchmen, and media dates back to a previous campaign initiated in November 1989 to create a rift in the fraternal ties of cooperation binding the brotherly peoples of Iraq and Egypt, in order to serve the aims of Zionists, imperialists, and other enemies of the Arab nation.

The Foreign Ministry has taken cognizance of the statements made by the Egyptian interior minister, as published in the newspaper AL-AHRAM on 23 September 1990, in which he said that 24 Egyptian bodies arrived during the period 2 August-21 September in three batches, the first batch consisting of 12 bodies, the second of 4 bodies, and the third of 8 bodies. The minister claimed that Iraq killed these citizens.

Seeking the truth, the Foreign Ministry set up a committee comprising the head of the Consular Department, an adviser at the Interior Ministry, the health director at the Aliens Department, and the head of the Forensic Medicine Department at the Ministry of Health. The committee held two meetings on 24 and 26 September 1990. The meetings were also attended by Mahmud Mustafa, the minister plenipotentiary at the Egyptian Embassy, and Hasan 'Anani, the Egyptian consul at the embassy. The latter were briefed on the circumstances that led to the deaths of the Egyptian citizens through the memoranda which the Iraqi Foreign Ministry earlier sent to the Egyptian Embassy, containing the causes of death for each of them. The deaths of the people in the first batch of corpses, which consisted of the 12 referred to in the Egyptian interior minister's statement, was caused by a car accident that took place on 26 August 1990, in an area 35 km west of al-Ramadi. The accident involved a passenger bus with the plate number 14421/Nineveh, which was carrying 26 passengers, and an Army vehicle whose plate number was 962706/Army. This accident caused the death of 12 Egyptian citizens and the injury of 14 Iraqi and Egyptian passengers, who were hospitilized later. The legal procedures regarding the accident were taken.

The Foreign Ministry informed the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad of the aforementioned accident in memorandum no. 8/5/75949 on 5 September 1990. The memorandum contained the names of those who died in the accident.

As for the other bodies referred to in the statement made by the Egyptian interior minister, the Egyptian Embassy was notified of the circumstances leading to their deaths in official memoranda, explaining the details and dates of the deaths of the people referred to in the statement, or who were left unmentioned in this statement. It is to be recalled that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has, since 2 August and up to 19 September, informed the Egyptian Embassy of all the deaths, and explained their causes in these memoranda. Most of these deaths were those of sick people, or were cases resulting from occupational or traffic accidents.

The two representatives of the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad affirmed that the measures taken by the competent Iraqi authorities are sound and proper. They added that there would be further cooperation between the embassy and the competent Iraqi authorities in addressing such cases.

While explaining these facts, we are certain that the Arabs, all Arabs, will always find a homeland in the Iraq of the victorious leader Saddam Husayn. Besides, Arabs will live with the Iraqis through thick and thin and fight with them in the trench of pan-Arab dignity against the invaders and their agents until the certain victory, God willing.

Diplomatic Access to Foreigners Considered

OW2709051190 Tokyo KYODO in English
0443 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 27 KYODO—Iraqi Oil Minister Isam Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi promised late Wednesday to consider allowing access to foreign nationals held in Iraq from a humanitarian standpoint, according to members of a Japanese delegation visiting Iraq.

Al-Jalabi made the promise in a meeting Wednesday with members of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) delegation.

The Iraqi minister told the Japanese mission that Iraq has taken foreigners hostage to deter possible raids on his country by the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf.

Iraq will release the foreigners if there is an assurance of no attacks on it, al-Jabali was quoted as saying.

Al-Jabali also told the mission that he would consider allowing consular personnel to meet the hostages from the humanitarian standpoint.

Foreign embassy staffs are now banned from meeting their nationals trapped in Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

The JSP mission urged Iraq to abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of troops from Kuwait and for an immediate release of all foreign nationals trapped in Iraq and Kuwait.

RCC's Ibrahim Receives Islamic Leaders

JN2509162190 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1040 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has received Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, former secretary general of the Islamic Front in Sudan, and Rachid Ghanouchi, leader of the Tunisian Islamic Renaissance Movement.

Dr. al-Turabi and Ghanouchi stressed the Islamic masses' support for Iraq in the battle of right against falsehood, which is the battle of humanity as a whole. They described Iraq's steadfast stand as an expression of a state of awakening and renaissance against the forces of evil and aggression, which target man and his dignity and obstruct his development.

'Izzat Ibrahim stressed that Iraqis are determined to fight against infidelity and to keep the torch burning for the sake of raising high the banners of right and justice.

Spokesman Comments on Mitterrand UN Speech

JN2509160690 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1450 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—Commenting on French President Francois Mitterrand's speech, an official spokesman has stated the following:

Regardless of disagreement or agreement in viewpoints on the issues dealt with by Mr. Mitterrand and the solutions he proposed, we noticed a nonhostile tone in Mr. Mitterrand's speech and an attempt to seek a solution or solutions to the region's issues.

Iraq has not been surprised by any previous disagreement or nonconformity in viewpoints with any world head of state. In fact, we assume that not every issue in the region should find a joint understanding by all parties, at least in the initial stages of the development of those problems or in the initial stages of any dialogue concerning them or efforts to tackle them. This is because every issue has its own peculiarities and background. Because it is not possible to reach an equal understanding of the peculiarities and background of any issue, the assumption that there will be disagreement or nonconformity in viewpoints is a realistic one.

What dismays Iraq are presumptions that are based on unobjective or unfair hopes and desires. Statements become unfair and arrogant if they adopt different standards for this region's problems, whether based on international law or standards for a solution reached in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. On this basis, the United States has been driven by its prior aggressive objectives to occupy the land of Muslims' holy places in the Arabian Peninsula and to involve others in this disgraceful act, to which there is no parallel in the past 1,400 years.

On the basis of these unfair estimations, the so-called Gulf crisis has been used as an opportunity to amass forces after the unjust economic embargo had been imposed in order to attack Iraq.

It is not disagreement in viewpoints that arouse the disgust, rejection, and resistance of the Iraqi people, but these unique measures, which were not applied to other similar issues in the region. This position is shared not only by all the masses of the Arab nation and its sincere honorable leaders, but also honorable Muslims and honest people in the world.

On the basis of the sincere desire to establish a comprehensive and durable peace in the entire region, we said that all issues of the region should be resolved, headed by the issue of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian territory usurped by Zionism, without which the United States would not have exercised an aggressive policy against Iraq before 2 August and would not have come after the 2 August events to concentrate its troops and violate our holy places in preparation for attacking Iraq. Had it not been for the Palestine question, the former rulers of Kuwait would not have conspired against Iraq and targeted its economy.

Only an active and effective link between the issues of the region reassures the Arabs that there are no prior aggressive intentions against them in the recent UN Security resolutions. Such a link also reassures them about the future and convinces them that the United States and its allies will conspire no more against the Arab nation and its good leaders.

The Arabs no longer trust the promises to recognize the Palestinian people's right to their homeland that has been snatched from them since 1948, because the UN Security Council issued many resolutions, but they were not applied. The Arabs have been given many promises, but they were not implemented; therefore, linking issues together has become necessary so that the Arabs can trust promises. Otherwise, what we have said on more than one occasion about the UN Security Council resolutions and the evil intentions of the United States and Israel and their allies, whether Arab or foreigner, who came to the region as tyrant invaders, would be reinforced. Nothing but withdrawal from the land of Muslims' holy places in the Arabian Peninsula is the first priority that tolerates no delay.

Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis Chief Visits

Meets Ramadan

JN2609173690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis Movement, and the accompanying delegation.

The first deputy prime minister affirmed that the coming battle will be a key to the liberation of Palestine and that all forces of infidelity and aggression will be defeated. He indicated that the U.S. and Western occupation of the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] is tied to the policy of the expansionist Zionists.

He said the people of the occupied territory in Palestine are the vanguard fighters for the sake of Palestine, and that they are defying all the Zionist occupation's practices and crimes against women and old men.

The leader of the Islamic Jihd-Bayt al-Maqdis Movement praised President Saddam Husayn's brave leadership, which restored hope for and confidence in the liberation of Jerusalem to the Arabs and Muslims.

He affirmed that the U.S. and foreign presence in the land of Najd and Hejaz is an aggression against the Muslim holy places, and that the Arabs and Muslims stand by Iraq in defending this holy land. He affirmed the Muslims are volunteering behind the great leader, President Saddam Husayn.

Makes Statement to INA

JN2509174290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis Movement, has condemned the presence of U.S., Zionist, and Western forces in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and their desecration of the Islamic holy places in Holy Mecca and the tomb of the great prophet.

In a statement to INA, Shaykh al-Tamimi said that the presence of the foreign forces in Najd and Hejaz is not only aimed at safeguarding U.S. interests in the region, but also at disrupting the ranks of the Arab and Islamic nation. He said that this presence is a serious matter and that indifference to it is a betrayal of God, His messenger, and the Muslims.

Shaykh al-Tamimi added that President mujahid [struggler] Saddam Husayn is now leading the gathering of the faithful, joined by all good Muslims.

He added that President leader Saddam Husayn is the knight and mujahid leader awaited by the Muslims in Palestine to liberate holy Jerusalem from the claws of Zionism.

He urged Muslims throughout the world to side with truth against falsehood and with Iraq and its mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn to liberate all Islamic shrines.

Agriculture Committee Sets Produce Prices

JN2509182190 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Sep 90 p 6

[Text] During its meeting yesterday, the central committee responsible for pricing agricultural products set the prices of agricultural products for consumers and producers.

This covers the minimum and maximum prices for wholesale and the maximum price for retail effective today, Wednesday, through 25 September. Following is a table providing the details:

Type of Produce	Wholesale price		Retail price
	Fils/kg	Fils/kg	Fils/kg
	minimum	maximum	maximum
Tomato	650	675	800
Potato	600	675	800
Green pepper	200	250	350
Chili pepper	250	300	400

Eggplant	150	175	250
Green cucumber	250	300	400
White cucumber	150	200	300
Squash	300	350	450
Garlic	1250	1300	1500
Dried onion	300	350	450
Sweet onions	200	250	350
Okra	500	550	650
Runner beans	400	450	550
Watermelons	/	/	175
Melons	/	/	250
Large apples	1200	1300	1500
Other apples	750	800	1000
Plums	700	750	900
Peaches	1000	1100	1300
Pears	450	500	600
Figs	900	1000	1200
Special kinds of grapes	500	550	700
Other kinds of grapes	250	300	400
Pomegranates	300	400	500
Barhi dates	1000	1100	1300
Zuhdi dates	350	400	500
Ripe dates of other varieties	750	850	1000
One kg of slaughter-house chicken			2750
One kg of private farm chicken			3000
A carton of table eggs to the consumer			3600

Notice: 1. It is legal to sell at a lesser price than the maximum retail price, but not at a price higher than that. 2. The declared prices of agricultural produce issued by the central committee for pricing agricultural products applies to good quality products. Agricultural products of other characteristics can be sold at lesser prices. 3. All retail vendors should have a price list for the retail prices and price tags on every product placed clearly and in legible writing for the consumer.

Ramadan Vows 'Heavy Price' for U.S. Attack

JN2509194990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1833 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, has renewed Iraq's warning that the United States and its agents and allies will pay a heavy price for any aggression against Iraq.

During a meeting with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, former secretary general of the Islamic National Front in Sudan, Taha Yasin Ramadan said 1990 is not 1967, and that the war which the United States is threatening and wants to trigger will not end within hours, and that the Iraqi response will be destructive, fierce, and inclusive of all U.S. interests, wherever they may be.

On the other hand, the first deputy prime minister criticized the biased policy adopted by successive U.S. administrations alongside racist Zionism against the Arab nation and its central causes and vital interests.

During a meeting with Eng. Ibrahim Shukri, head of the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party, today, the first deputy prime minister affirmed that international legitimacy is an indivisible whole, cannot accept discrimination, and that its resolutions and laws must be applied to all states.

He said that Iraq has legally expressed its stand on international legitimacy, and that the United States has never respected international legitimacy where Arab and Islamic issues are concerned, and that for 43 years it never worked to implement the UN Security Council resolutions that mandate the withdrawal of Zionist forces from the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon. He added that the United States has opposed all international resolutions condemning the Zionist entity and its aggressive expansionist policy and brutal practices against the Arabs in the Arab territories. He said the United States has vetoed all international resolutions and did not adopt any economic and military sanctions against the Zionist entity, which rejects the UN Security Council resolutions.

Dr. Hasan al-Turabi described the foreign presence in the holy Arab land in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] as an aggression against the Islamic holy places and a desecration of the sanctity of the holy Kaaba and the tomb of the great prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him. During his meeting with Taha Yasin Ramadan, al-Turabi said that this invasion is part of the Zionist-U.S. scheme to occupy Arab territories.

Eng. Ibrahim Shukri affirmed that the U.S. and foreign invasion of the holy Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz falls within the expansionist plan of imperialism and the Zionist entity to impose hegemony and achieve their aggressive expansionist objectives.

During his meeting with the first deputy prime minister, Shukri affirmed that the presence of foreign forces and fleets in the holy Arab lands further complicates matters. He urged Arabs and Muslims to work together to force the withdrawal of these forces and to liberate the holy lands from them, because they constitute desecrations of the holiness of Kaaba and the tomb of the noble prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

Receives Turkish Politician Erbakan

JN2609144590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has asserted that the Turkish Government's position on the Arabian Gulf crisis will harm Turkish interests and affect the future of its relationship with Arabs and Muslims.

During his reception of Necmettin Erbakan, leader of the Turkish Welfare Party, he stressed that the Turkish Government's stand on the crisis and its implementation of U.S. policy do not serve the interests of the Muslim Turkish people, who reject all forms of cooperation with Zionism and its allies and the enemies of Arabism and Islam.

He pointed to Iraq's serious and clear desire to establish comprehensive peace in the region within the frank and scientific pinciples contained in President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August.

Mr. Erbakan stressed that the Turkish people cling to the principles of Islamic Shari'a and reject the desecration of the Islamic shrines and foreign presence there.

He affirmed that the U.S. invasion of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] is a link in the chain of the scheme to establish Greater Israel, which the Zionists are plotting and the Americans and their allies implementing.

PLO's Abu-Iyad Discusses Gulf War Prospects

PM2609093090 London ITV Television Network in English 1930 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Interview with PLO head of military intelligence Abu-Iyad, speaking in Arabic with simultaneous English translation, by unnamed correspondent in Baghdad, date not given; during a "World In Action" program entitled "Inside Saddam's Stronghold"—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] While we were in Baghdad, one of the most influential figures in the Arab world turned up at our hotel. He's number two in the Palestine Liberation Organization, and he has a line open to Saddam Husayn. In a rare interview, he told us that if war came, it would ignite the whole Arab world.

[Abu-Iyad] We have always believed that war would be destructive—not only for the Arabs, but for all the world. I believe that if the United States undertakes aggression against Iraq, no Arab state in the region will be spared the results of this aggression. There will be an uprising of all the people against this direct aggression against Iraq. It might be that people differ about the occupation of Kuwait, but they do not disagree in the slightest about confronting American aggression.

Commentary Says French Troops Unfairly Stationed

LD2509214790 Baghdad International Service in English 2040 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Welcome, dear listeners, to our commentary.

First reports last week said that the French troops deployed in Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf are to be stationed at the frontline areas near the Iraqi-Saudi border, together with other Arab and Saudi soldiers. The American troops are however, already deployed at the rear lines far away from any hot battle zone in case of a war [word indistinct]. Such a way of troop distribution in the area can neither be coincidence nor requisite of military planning. Apparently, it is based on a policy of radical discrimination. Utilizing its dominance over the international politics, the United States seems to be determined to get the best out of every deal. So, while forcing others into involvement in an agreement against Iraq, the Pentagon has made sure that its troops should remain at the safest place. By so doing it appears to be saying that in case of a war against Iraq the United States is ready to fight until the last French soldier. In other words, let others die, not the Americans.

Right from the start of the deployment of its troops in Saudi Arabia, the White House was careful in picking up [as heard] deployment locations based on such geomilitary calculations as would ensure the least possible casualties among American troops under war circumstances, as most of the United States troops are at present deployed in (?hiding) and in rear positions hundreds of miles away from hard confrontation lines. As for the soldiers of other nations, including the French, they remain the front line forces who are expected to receive the heaviest blows.

Acceptance by such a European country as France that its nationals be classified as second-grade human beings indicates, the least to say, that the political leaders in Paris have gone too far in violating their own independence. For the Third World countries, France has been looked upon as one of rare European countries enjoying independence (?far from the influence of) American administration. Hence these countries have been counting much on France's role, as a big power with the right of veto in the Security Council, in defending their causes against foreign aggressors' attacks. One has to say that France was the supporter of the oppressed and poor Third World countries for decades, especially under the late General Charles de Gaulle and successive governments that followed.

However, things appear to have changed in Paris, to the detriment of other nations. Paris seems to have willingly given in to United States pressure and is now an ally to Washington, which comes only after the United States' traditional ally, Britain, in terms of importance. This means that France has withdrawn to be a backbencher in the international politics, rather than a leading nation with independent policies.

While regretting such backward march of a friendly country, one has yet to find out whether the government of President Mitterrand will return to the course which gained France the international acknowledgement as a leading and just country. Let us hope so.

Source Denies 500 Presidential Guard Defections

JN2609131190 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1225 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—An authorized source has denied the report published in Cairo AL-AKHBAR, to the effect that 500 men of the Iraqi Presidential Guards have defected. He added that this report is part of a series of cheap lies propagated in return for money—lies which the aforementioned paper and other organs of the paid media have been publishing.

The source asserted that our Arab people in Egypt, the quiver, [name given to Egypt as producer of fighting men, or "arrows"], are well aware of the lies propagated by this paper and other state-owned papers, which hastened to welcome the U.S.-Western-Crusader occupation of Holy Mecca and the tomb of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

The source went on to say that our Armed Forces, the steel arm of our people, are too strong to be undermined by these cheap news reports and lies which are propagated by imperialist and Zionist quarters.

National Council's Salih Says Embargo 'Doomed'

JN2609142790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Radio correspondent dispatch from Baghdad]

[Excerpt] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Iraqi National Council speaker, has praised His Majesty King Husayn's wise and courageous policy and Jordan's position, which calls for containing the Gulf crisis within its Arab framework. He expressed the hope that all people will respond to the Jordanian call, and pointed out that foreign intervention in the Gulf crisis disrupted chances for a sound solution.

On the economic embargo imposed on Iraq by the United States and Western countries, he said that this embargo is doomed to fail. Iraq, which is the country of the rich soil and the two rivers, cannot be starved. It is capable of meeting its needs with no imports or exports.

In his capacity as commander in chief of the Popular Army in Baghdad, Sa'di Mahdi Salih said there are 1,600,000 volunteer in Baghdad alone. He also said that the popular army is well trained and participated effectively during the war with Iran. It has been trained on various light, medium, and anti-aircraft weapons. He pointed out that the number of volunteers from all areas has exceeded 5 million. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Crisis Involves 'All Probabilities'

JN2609172490 Baghdad INA in English
1500 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 26, INA—AL JUMHURIYAH daily today confirmed that the invaders have no alternative other than leaving our sacred lands, abandoning their aggression plan and recognizing the Arab nation's historical right to Palestine, with its capital al-Quds [Jerusalem].

The daily said that the invaders should seek the right path opened by the initiative President Saddam Husayn proposed with the aim of settling all ocupation issues in the region in order to ensure permanent peace and security in this oil-rich area, where oil is about to flame.

It asked if the invasion troops are trying to monopolize oil or to set it ablaze, and wondered how anyone could occupy fire. It stressed that no one catches fire without being burned.

The paper made it clear that the foreign powers have sent their troops to occupy oil resources in the region in an attempt to impose their economic domain over the world and strip the Arabs of the privilege of possessing this vital substance.

It stressed that what might happen would be beyond the expectation of those seeking to enforce their control, for what comes next is subject to all probabilities, including the probability that there may be no more oil in the region.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concluded that the banner which Iraq will carry is the banner of all believers who give up no right and adhere to their principles, and that there will be no peace of mind till the invaders leave our holy lands, voluntarily or forcibly.

Arab Unions Send Messages to Bush, Thatcher

JN2609171890 Baghdad INA in English
1535 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 26, INA—Chairmen of 26 professional Arab unions and organizations expressed strong denunciation to the U.S.-imperialist invasion of the holy lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and its desecration of Islamic sanctities.

In a message sent to American President Bush and British Premier Thatcher at the conclusion of an emergency meeting held in Baghdad, they confirmed solidarity of the Arab masses with Iraq in defence of Arab dignity and praised steadfastness of Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

The chairman stressed full support to President Husayn's initiative on August 12 and confirmed the legitimate and historic right of Iraq in its southern part.

They also condemned traitorous stances of Fahd and Husni [Mubarak] and their invitation to the foreign forces to desecrate the sacred Arab lands.

Food for Foreigners Reportedly Ends 1 Oct

NC2609192090 Paris AFP in English 1950 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 26 (AFP)—Iraq will cut off food supplies to all foreigners stranded in Kuwait and Iraq starting October 1, a reliable source said.

The source said Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz informed the International Committee of the Red Cross his country would not be able to provide foreigners with their food requirements beyond October 1.

Thousands of foreigners have been trapped in Iraq and Kuwait since Iraq invaded its southern neighbor on August 2.

Mr. 'Aziz justified the decision by pointing to the United Nations-backed sanctions against Iraq, the source said.

The foreign minister also asked the Red Cross to urge countries whose nationals are in Kuwait and Iraq to send them food, adding that "Iraq, hit by the economic embargo, can't be held responsible for the suffering of foreigners."

On September 14, the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 666 which made the shipping of food to Iraq and Kuwait conditional upon its distribution by the United Nations, the Red Cross and other international bodies.

This condition was rejected by Baghdad.

To date, only India has dispatched food and medical supplies to its nationals trapped in Iraq and Kuwait. The Indian vessel Vishwa Siddhi loaded with 10 tonnes of supplies was allowed to sail up the Gulf.

It arrived on Monday at the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr after first being inspected by a U.S. warship.

Kurdish Leader Discusses Oppositiion to Saddam

PM2509142790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Sep 90 p 3

[Unattributed interview with Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of (Iraqi) Kurdistan, in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is the Kurds' present position on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the crisis as a whole?

['Abd-al-Rahman] We have condemned the invasion since the day it took place, because it conflicts with all values, all international laws, Arab solidarity, and the Iraqi people's interests. Thus we demanded the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait. If they do not withdraw, we fear that the region as a whole will be exposed to very major threats. The Iraqi people are the first to be harmed badly.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is the Iraqi opposition's status inside the country and abroad?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The Iraqi opposition is a strong opposition in every sense of the word. The leaderships have been forced to be based abroad because of Saddam's oppression; they are now based in Middle East countries, in Europe, and in the United States. We believe that with their various inclinations they are present in the hearts of the Iraqi people. As for open opposition, it cannot exist in Iraq so long as Saddam is in power, but if an imbalance occurred and the opposition at home and abroad united, the opposition would easily and quickly fill the vacuum. The Kurdish opposition occupies a special position: first, because it is the strongest element in the Iraqi opposition; second, because it is democratic; and third, because we are bound to the other opposition parties by excellent and brotherly relations. There are three other trends in addition to the Kurdish trend: There is a leftist democratic trend, an Islamic trend, and a pan-Arab trend. Our relations with all these are good.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Can the opposition inside the country move to topple Saddam?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Anything is possible, is it not? We have confirmed information that demonstrations were staged in Mosul on 7 September and continued for two days. Two days later, that is, on 9 September, the Iraqi authorities opened fire on the demonstrators and as a result 50 Iraqis were martyred. In addition, some Army units could move against the regime. That is, it is possible to destroy Saddam. It is not impossible.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Why has the Army still not rebelled against him?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Probably one of the major concerns of anyone contemplating military rebellion is the use of chemical weapons by Saddam, even against his own forces if they rebel against him. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You were a minister in the Iraqi Government under Saddam Husayn, with whom you met more than 30 times over four years. How would you analyze his personality?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I think he is successful in terms of tactics; but in terms of strategy and principles he is very weak. He wants to stay in power at any cost.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Would he back down in order to stay?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I think so.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] That was reflected during his talks with Iran.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Yes. He concluded the Algiers agreement in 1975 to destroy the Kurdish revolution. In 1980 he sensed that the religious tendency in Iraq was growing at Iran's behest, so he did not hesitate to tear up the agreement on television. Then he launched a war against Iran and the agreement. And after eight years of slogans which claimed 1 million martyred and maimed among the Iraqi and Iranian peoples—after all this we saw him forfeit everything, without consulting anyone and with one stroke of a pen. Where are the principles, where is the credibility?

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is is the extent of popular support for Saddam among the Iraqi people? And can an opposition move be launched inside?

['Abd-al-Rahman] I believe there may be some people who benefit from Saddam and thus support him; but the majority fear his oppression and cannot express their views freely. That terrible police grip in Iraq must be shaken by one means or another. There is no police state in the world like the Iraqi state—I am sure of that. [passage omitted]

Paper Urges Fahd, Mubarak Repentance

*JN2509164590 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0610 GMT 25 Sep 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that Iraq, which is armed with will, leadership, capability, and faith, is capable of waging a battle that will give it great honor from God.

In its editorial today under the headline "The Arab Situation and the Conditions of Repentance," the paper stresses that Iraq adheres to the liberation of Jerusalem and its sanctities, and that it is capable of drowning the aggressors with the flood that will sweep them all away and throw them in hell. The paper points out that what we have so far seen and heard from the parties to the conspiracy that brought the foreigners to our Arab land, and who stood with them in their trench, is no different from the U.S. plan and conditions—something we, the Arab nation's masses, and its militant forces reject.

AL-THAWRAH defines the conditions of repentance for the conspirators and deviationists, saying: The Arab nation will not accept anything less from the traitors than their announcement of the withdrawal of foreign forces from their countries. Only then will the appropriate circumstances prevail in the Arab region for a responsible discussion based on the principles of Arabism, giving the Arabs the opportunity to adopt a unified position to eliminate deviation from the road to new inter-Arab relations and to bring about understanding instead of internecine fighting.

The paper stresses that the conditions for Arab solidarity are now those which are related to the quality of the parties qualified for achieving Arab solidarity. In this solidarity, there will be no place except for the genuine Arabs. Speaking from the U.S. trench and from the positions of evil and plotting is suspect talk that is void of any sincere intentions. Certainly, this talk does not serve the nation or its interests, but it is part of the conspiracy and is aimed at distracting the Arabs from their major concerns by involving them in marginal issues that serve as a cover for the foreign occupation of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

The paper says: Facts are big and solid, and do not tolerate falsifications. Moreover, the Arab mind's awakening is at its peak, and facts can tell the names and positions of those who brought the foreigners and fragmented the Arab position by hatching plots against the inter-Arab nation and the Arab League. The paper points out in particular that the betrayer [custodian] of the two holy mosques, Husni [Mubarak], and their followers are in the camp hostile to the nation. They are thinking of evil actions and participating in the plans of occupation and aggression through words and deeds, collusion, and attempts to split Arab ranks.

It adds: If there is anyone who should be asked to prove his intentions to change what he thinks and his evil, then it should be [King] Fahd, Husni, and their likes. It stresses that words and promises are not enough to convince the nation's masses and sincere forces. In fact, the time of empty words has been over since the sunrise of 2 August and the turning of the first page of the historical battle.

Concluding, the paper says: Any party is not worthy of being an Arab unless it departs the foreigners' trench, announces the actual withdrawal of foreign forces from the region, proves his serious intention to change his evil plans, and opts for the way that satisfies God and the people. Only then, and without preconditions, all opportunities sought by all good people will be available to achieve solutions that will improve the lot of the Arabs.

Islamic, Arab Figures Condemn U.S. Presence

*JN2609172690 Baghdad INA in English
1425 GMT 26 Sep 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Sep, INA—A number of Islamic and Arab figures now on a visit to Iraq strongly condemned the American presence on the sacred land of Saudi Arabia and in the Gulf region.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) they stressed that the presence which has been made easy with the support of the two regimes in Saudi Arabia and Egypt reflects hatred of the enemies of Islam and Arabs. The invaders, they said, seek, by all means, to undermine the development and fortitude represented by Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, the general inspector of the Moslem Brotherhood in Jordan, said that the presence of the invading American Zionist forces on the sacred Islamic territory is considered the most serious sin against Islam.

Mr Khalifah stressed that Arab and Islamic states should have the power of faith to stand-up to the malicious aggression designed on Islamic and Arab nation, particularly Iraq.

Dr Necmehim Erbakan, president of the Refah [Prosperity) Party and former deputy premier in Turkey, called upon Islamic states to stand by Iraq in its confrontation with the Zionist-American conspiracies to impose the cruel economic blockade on Iraq.

Dr Erbakan reiterated that Islamic states must unite today more than any other time so as to force the invading forces out of the sacred Islamic land and protect it from defilement.

He described President Saddam Husayn's initiative of August 12 as the practical step towards achieving just peace in the whole region.

The well-known Arab writer Dr Amir Iskandar said the presence of American and Zionist forces on the sacred land of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia forms a blatant act of aggression and clear violation of international laws and norms.

He hailed President Husayn's initiative of August 12 as the best solution to all disputes in the Middle East.

Editor Says Shevardnadze Bribed for UN Remarks

JN2609111590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1036 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Sep (INA)—The INA political editor has made the following comment: In a tone that clearly shows the bribe given by America and its allies the oil shaykhs, USSR Foreign Minister Shevardnadze spoke from the United Nations forum in a threatening voice.

We tell Shevardnadze: If you are not concerned about the relations of friendship with the Arabs and want to be dragged into the alliance of American hostility, then the Arabs will not be concerned about you and the likes of you. The Arabs have the will and pride to prevent them from appeasing you and the likes of you. If the balance of falsehood seeks the help of your weight, then you should throw this weight under the feet of the tyrant Americans after they imposed on you the new options hostile to all that is human and honest. God is great; ignominy to the infidels.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Stresses War Readiness

JN2509140390 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 25, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of today stressed that Iraq is quite ready for the historic battle imposed by the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation.

The daily said that Iraq has clearly warned that it would not let anyone strangle its people and that whoever plans to do so should be well aware of the dire consequences, for whoever ponders the flood of anger coming from Iraq and the Arab nation must realize that this flood would no doubt devour him first.

It drew America, its ally Israel and their servants Fahd and Mubarak's attention to the fact that this battle would burn all those involved in the aggression, together with those who brought in or secured a cover for the U.S., Western and Zionist forces which desecrated the land of Arabs and Muslims' sanctities in Mecca and Medina.

"This battle would be a holy war, in which Iraq would lead the Arab nation's army, raising the banner of this nation and embodying with its will the original values and principles of the Arab awakening which gives the people's capabilities additional momentum on the road to the liberation of all Arab and Islamic sanctities, including al-Quds [Jerusalem] the paper added.

AL-JUMHURIYAH pointed out that when the United States deployed its ground forces, war planes and naval fleets in the region, backed by its Western and Zionist allies with an overt aim of protecting its strategic ally Israel, it only brought by that further destruction to those allies and agents who could not stand long if war broke out.

AL-'IRAQ Accuses King Fahd of Sellout

JN2509140190 Baghdad INA in English 0905 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 25, INA—AL-'IRAQ daily of Baghdad has said that all evil and aggression forces are incapable of confronting Arab and Muslim forces who joined great Iraq to defend the Arab right and Islam.

In its editorial for today the paper added that Iraq's principled stance and exposure of pretexts and justifications of the imperialists by occupying sanctities of the Arabs and Muslims in Najd and Hejaz had forced traitor ruler Fahd to admit that goals of the aggressors were to attack Iraq and re-draw the political map in the region in a manner compatible with interests of the United States and the imperialist forces.

The daily warned traitor ruler Fahd that Iraq was not a land without people and the fire being planned by Washington and its allies to ignite it could cover Iraq and the region only, while all evidences and indications confirm that the fires would burn the world as a whole if it might erupt.

The paper confirmed that those who sell their homelands to the foreigner have no right to talk about independence and sovereignty, because independence and sovereignty have other meanings hardly to be perceived by Fahd and his followers.

The daily ridiculed by saying that was there any word most suitable from arrogance and wantonness could be released towards he who lost his country's independence and sovereignty and endeavoured to intervene in Iraq's internal affairs. [sentence as received]

Levi Grapples With Reply to U.S. 'Precondition'

TA2609164390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi is finding it difficult to formulate a reply to the U.S. Administration's demand for a series of assurances, which are a precondition for the U.S. guarantees for the $400 million immigrant absorption loan.

Our U.S.-based correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that officials accompanying Minister Levi said the formulation is difficult because of the minister's declaration that Israel will be unable to deviate from the government's outlook on the issue of territories.

Tonight Minister Levi will meet with his counterpart, James Baker. This afternoon the foreign minister met with his Yugoslav counterpart, with whom he discussed the Persian Gulf conflict and the possible resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Commentary Warns of Cooling Relations With U.S.

TA2609122790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Sep 90 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The Wolf Is Already at the Door"]

[Text] The high echelons of the Foreign Ministry took a lot of trouble to try to convince the minister that this time it will be no picnic. The second meeting with the U.S. secretary of state, they warned, would be harder than the first get-acquainted meeting held three weeks ago. But based on David Levi's declaration in New York on the eve of the meeting scheduled for today, it seems that the doomsday forecasts did not make any impression on the foreign minister.

Every time a Likud prime minister or foreign minister leaves for the United States, the experts—most of them left-wingers—warn that this time for sure Israel will have to pay a heavy price for its rejectionist position. The warnings about a serious crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations sound like the little boy's cries of wolf, wolf! But the wolf has not shown up.

The wolf has not come for the simple reason that he has been hovering around here for several months now, but compared to really dangerous beasts of prey, such as Saddam Husayn, he looks like an innocent lamb. There were times when the leaders of neighboring countries waved the "Zionist threat" to hide grave internal problems from their own people. The Iraqi threat covers up disturbing signs in the relations between Israel and its most important friend.

At the request of the United States, Israel has adopted a low profile during the Gulf crisis. After the hostilities end, however, it will become clear that this is more or less the profile the Americans want in their relations with a government that in their view does not contribute enough to the "new setup" in the Middle East. Its basic guidelines were formulated in the days before the crisis broke out, when it seemed that the Shamir government was trying to play for time. The fact that Saddam proved to Shamir that his game paid off did not change the Bush-Baker administration's impression that the Shamir-Arens government is mocking them.

It is worth recalling that the low profile was not invented this summer. Who remembers the last time an Israeli prime minister received a formal invitation to the White House? It was in April 1989, when Yitzhaq Shamir brought the peace initiative to Washington. The next time, last November, when Shamir went to a Jewish conference in Cincinnati, George Bush played cat and mouse with him right up to the eve of the meeting. Since then, contacts between the two have been conducted through an exchange of letters.

In Defense Minister Moshe Arens' last two visits to the U.S. capital, Baker deliberately avoided any contact with him, something that did not characterize his relations with Yitzhaq Rabin. In talks with visiting Israelis, U.S. officials have not hesitated to explain that Baker's frequent meetings with Levi are merely a final gamble on the new man in the Foreign Ministry. If he, too, plans to lead them astray, he will have to remember what Washington looks like from old pictures.

The obstacles Washington is placing in front of Israel on the immigrant absorption loan is also a sign of the wolf. Each obstacle on its is not a cause for special concern, but when added together they make a chilly picture. At issue is not a gift or a $400 million loan (a ridiculous amount in itself, compared to writing off Egypt's $7 billion debt) but only a $20-30 million guarantee. At first, the Americans linked granting the guarantee to a commitment that the immigrants would not be directed to the territories. After receiving that they demanded assurances that the money would not cross the Green Line. The right-wing government agreed to that as well. Israel is now being forced to provide guarantees that it will not trick the Americans and transfer to the territories funds freed by the loan.

The government is currently investing a great deal of effort in making relations with the United States look more attractive than they really are. Levi, for instance, forgot to report to the government Baker's warning that if there is no progress in the peace process the United States would find it difficult to foil a renewed debate on an international conference. The deal for billions of dollars with Saudi Arabia was too large and important for them to be able to claim it was just another transaction. Dividing the deal into stages has no significance since it is clear that Saudi Arabia is incapable of absorbing $20 billion worth of military equipment in one fell swoop. The arms leased to Israel are aimed at easing the Saudi deal through Congress. According to top Israeli political and military echelons, the Israeli deal cannot significantly reduce the dangerous gap that has developed in the regional military balance.

Relations with the United States are measured by the latter's generosity toward a friendly country such as Israel, compared to what it shows to other countries, especially outright rivals of Israel such as Saudi Arabia. Another barometer of relations is the readiness of the older sister to come to the financial aid of its small friend currently in financial straits. The United States is displaying clear apathy to the vital needs of its poor ally, which must find billions of dollars to absorb new immigrants.

Despite everything, one does not have to go too much out of one's way to return to the Americans a little goodwill and try to reintroduce warmth into the relations. It is enough for Levi to convince Baker that an Israeli-Palestinian settlement will begin after the United States restores order in the Gulf.

Sharon Equates Iraqi Policy, Transfer Idea

TA2609211190 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1940 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Yoram Ronen, Yig'al Goren, and 'Oded Shahar on the "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ronen] Mr. Sharon, I would like to ask about the Gulf crisis. Shortly after Iraq invaded Kuwait, you said that the United States must strike a military blow to Iraq. Do you still believe that a military confrontation is inevitable or do you think a political option still exists and the naval and air blockade on Iraq will do the job?

[Sharon] First of all, the United States should be congratulated for having succeeded in forming an international coalition and imposing an embargo, albeit not a full one. We know that anything can, and is, being transferred through Jordan; probably there are other routes as well. Just as I thought then, and I repeat today, such a blockade cannot solve the problem. The worst-case scenario for Israel is for the current crisis to end with Saddam Husayn in power, along with the big arsenal of lethal weapons in his possession: Thousands of tanks, over 6,000 of them; surface-to-surface missiles, all of which have the range to reach Israel; immense stockpiles of chemical weapons; and very developed military industries. This is the foremost danger.

Saddam Husayn has been called a madman. He is not; the man works ceaselessly. In my opinion, from the word go, the man has been creating conditions conducive to a political solution; he has been creating a political option. When an Israeli mentions the word transfer, the entire world is shocked, but what we have been witnessing in Kuwait is a transfer. About one-third of Kuwait's inhabitants have been driven out, while Iraqis, Palestinians, and Jordanians of Palestinian extraction have been brought in. In fact, we may one day be faced with a situation in which Saddam Husayn will say: Look, I am ready to seek a political settlement. I will pull out of Kuwait, you will pull out of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, and we will hold a referendum in Kuwait. We know exactly what such a referendum would mean.

In my opinion, this would be dangerous. Those who talk today about peace in the Middle East must understand that the problem is not a small agreement with the Palestinians, whoever their representatives may be, but that the problem is much deeper than that. Its solution calls for a reduction in the amounts of arms, a halt to the arms race, parity of weapons between Israel and the Arab countries, and some sort of democratization in the Arab countries to prevent one leader from holding the entire free world—as well as the world behind the Iron Curtain which no longer exists in its previous form—by the throat. That is inconceivable!

[Goren] Is the physical elimination of Saddam Husayn the solution? Is that possible?

[Sharon] I do not want to make any suggestions. All means are possible. It is inconceivable that the crisis should end this way. It would be dangerous to the Middle East, to the world at large, and to Israel.

[Goren] If there is a military confrontation, could it reach us?

[Sharon] I think the danger of a military confrontation has not decreased but rather increased. I do not think one should play down what Saddam Husayn says. I have always said that what the Arabs say—albeit not the timetables they propose—should be taken seriously. Ultimately, they make good on everything they say. Israel has the deterrent capability and the ability to react, and I hope it is making all the necessary preparations. [passage omitted]

'Serious Dispute' With UK Over Gaza Center

TA2709102390 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Sep 90 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] A serious dispute has erupted between Israel and Britain following the announcement that Douglas Hurd, the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, intends to inaugurate an educational center in the Gaza Strip when he visits Israel next month. It has transpired that Britain is unwilling to coordinate the opening of the center with the Israeli defense establishment, asserting that the Gaza Strip is not a sovereign part of the State of Israel but conquered territory.

Similar disagreements have occurred with other European countries who had wanted to open legations in Gaza similar to the consulates operating in East Jerusalem. Jerusalem feared that the intention of these countries was to accord de facto recognition to the Palestinian political entity in the territories. France even opened a cultural center in Gaza without receiving permission to do so. It is now feared that the British are trying to follow the French example, and it was therefore decided to make it totally clear that Israel would not accept the establishment of a British institution without it being coordinated with the Civil Administration.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosi 'Amihud yesterday evening confirmed to MA'ARIV that contacts between the two countries are now being held to resolve the matter.

Shamir Aide Says Fatah 'Terrorism' Continues

TA2709074390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Sep 90 p 2

["On Line" interview with Yig'al Karmon, "the prime minister's adviser for countering terrorism," by Simson Carlebach, in reaction to "the just-published annual report of the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies" which claimed that "Fatah is helping the West block terror attacks;" date not given]

[Text] Q: Do you agree that Fatah has "cooperated with Western states...and offered assistance" in blocking international terrorism?

A: Certainly not. They have not been cooperating with Western attempts to curb terrorism. 'Arafat did make one such offer, to help find the perpetrators of the Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie in Scotland, but Western states understood it was a propaganda ploy, and indeed, nothing came of his offer.

'Arafat has been working against attempts to stop terror. For instance, over the last two years he's successfully been placing heavy pressure on the Greek government to block the extradition to the U.S. of Fatah member Mohammad Rashid, who blew up a plane over Honolulu.

Furthermore, he failed to condemn the aborted attack on the Israeli beaches, which according to the terrorists' own admission and the indictment against them, included the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv as a target.

Q: What about the decline in international terror carried out by Fatah, which the report cites?

A: One might say Fatah's last known "international" terror incident was when their Force 17 killed a Palestinian cartoonist in London in 1987. But they continue to use international bases and resources to carry out terror against Israel.

For instance, a Danish woman arrested here last year admitted to being a Force 17 operative with a terror mission to carry out at the Maccabiah Games. And this year, two Yugoslav girls arrested here admitted attempting to collect information for planned attacks, including on stores on Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street and the central market in Haifa.

Efforts To Restore Uprising Momentum Under Way

TA2609124490 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Sep 90 p 11

[Excerpts] The PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders of the uprising in the territories have been trying to restore momentum to the violent confrontations with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

These efforts have found expression in the dissemination of leaflets calling for an increase in violence and in an attempt to get the various commands to revive coordination. The Unified National Command of the Uprising published a special pamphlet in solidarity with the residents of the al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, instructing the residents of the territories to escalate confrontations with soldiers.

The Shin Bet succeeded in the past two days in uncovering two large groups before they managed to carry out any attacks. In Hebron, a large Hamas cache containing dozens of knives, axes, and spears, as well as portable loudspeakers and military uniforms, was discovered.

At the same time, IDF troops initiated an operation in two villages in the Tulkarm area. Suspects were detained, slogans were erased, and fines were imposed on the homeowners whose walls were scrawled on.

The wave of murders continues. In Qalqilyah, masked men entered a house in the eastern neighborhood, and beat up and stabbed three youths suspected of collaboration. [passage omitted]

In the al-Fari'ah refugee camp near Nabulus, which has been under curfew for five days, gunfire was exchanged between local youths and a group of mukhtar loyalists suspected of helping Israel. Two youths were wounded. [passage omitted]

Arens Says Collective Punishment Not Supported

TA2609125490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says that the Likud does not support collective punishment. He claimed that in operations in the al-Burayj refugee camp, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] did not ignore state laws or the positions of its legal institutions. Proof of that was supplied by the High Court of Justice's ruling.

The defense minister lambasted Knesset Member [MK] Elyaqim Ha'etzni, who maintained that Amnon Pomerantz was murdered because the IDF is not in control of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. He emphasized that MK Ha'etzni's timing for attacks on the IDF is inappropriate.

By a majority vote, the MK's decided to transfer the motions on the murder in al-Burayj to the agenda for further discussion by the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

UN Official Concerned Over Al-Burayj Measures

TA2609173190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] After a visit to the al-Burayj refugee camp, the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] commissioner general expressed concern about the demolition of houses. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Commissioner General Giorgio Giacomelli said there is a disproportion between the murder and Israel's response. According to him, camp notables condemned the murder of the soldier, but at the same time protested the collective punishment.

Suspected Collaborator Killed, Curfews Reported

TA2709091790

[Editorial report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 27 September in a report by Matthew Seriphs on pages 1 and 10 states that "curfews were imposed on Dayr al-Balah and Bayt Lahiyah yesterday to prevent clashes, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reported. Palestinians on Tuesday reported a curfew on the Bayt Lahiyah housing project. Palestinians said the curfew on Dayr al-Balah, six kilometers from al-Burayj, was intended to help the army conduct searches for youths who fled after the killing of Pomerantz."

In another report on page 10 of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST, Jon Immanuel notes that "a man found dead four days ago in a field north of Nabulus was identified yesterday as Salah Abu-Ra's, 44, a prominent Nabulus lawyer. He had been kidnapped by the 'Red Eagle' gang, tortured and killed, local sources said.

"Marks on his body indicated that he had been strangled with bare hands and burned with cigarettes. His hands and legs had been tied, local sources said.

"News of his death shocked the Nabulus legal community, said one lawyer, who said he knew Abu-Ra's to be 'a good man' with no particular political affiliation. Last week, prominent Nabulus pediatrician Nihad al-Masri, associated with the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Islamic fundamentalists, was beaten in his clinic. No declaration or graffiti has appeared asserting that Abu- Ra's had cooperated with the Israel authorities.

"The sources said that Abu-Ra's was abducted from his office on Sunday by the 'Red Eagle,' a gang which moves against suspected informers and which is affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"The 'Red Eagle' was smashed in IDF raids last November, but began functioning again with new members."

Ron Kampeas, reporting on the same page of THE JERUSALEM POST, adds that "four people, including two tourists, were injured in stone-throwing incidents in East Jerusalem yesterday." He further writes that "government officials attempting to recover back taxes in the Shu'fat refugee camp were also stoned."

Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 27 September in an unattributed report on page 6 says that "three separate life sentences were meted out yesterday by the Beersheba District Court on an Islamic Jihad member from Gaza who was detained in the Qezi'ot military detention facility in the Negev for murdering three other security detainees. The defendant told the judges that he had fulfilled his duty according to Islam by murdering the three 'who worked with the enemy' by cooperating with the Israeli authorities.

"Wa'il Makki 'Abdallah Abu-Fannuna, a 24-year-old resident of al- Shaja'iyah in Gaza, was first detained on 25 October 1989 on suspicion of membership in the popular committees." He committed the murders on 18 July 1990.

Israeli Arab Youths Arrested for Unrest

TA2709082890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Sep 90 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Nahal 'Iron—Police here have arrested 10 Israeli Arab teenagers on suspicion of involvement in a string of nationalistically motivated incidents in the Nahal 'Iron region in the past few months.

The 15- to 17-year-olds, all from the Triangle town of Umm al-Fahm, had apparently been trying to emulate their "intifada heroes."

They are accused of throwing stones at police and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] vehicles, raising Palestinian flags and blocking roads.

One group allegedly planned to kill a guard at a nearby Jewish settlement (inside the Green Line) and steal his weapon. One suspect is accused of possessing a hand grenade, which he tried to sell to other youths. Charges have already been drawn up against some of the suspects.

Police said at least another 10 teenagers were believed to be involved, and more arrests were expected.

Some 17 youths from Umm al-Fahm were arrested two months ago and charged with offenses ranging from flag-raising to firebomb attacks and threatening the lives of so-called collaborators. Most have since been tried, convicted and sentenced, some to prison.

The latest wave of arrests followed intensive inquiries by police into incidents in the Umm al-Fahm and Moshav Me 'Ammi areas.

"These are not organized gangs but rather small 'ad hoc' groups of youths," Chief Superintendent Gid'on Arbel, commander of the 'Iron police station, told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

He said the youths appeared to have been influenced by the actions of their counterparts in the territories, whom they viewed as heroes.

"We found from our inquiries that the majority were not aware of the significance or seriousness of what they regarded as acts of heroism," said Arbel.

"They didn't get the full picture from the media and were ignorant of the consequences—of how raising PLO flags and throwing stones leads to prison terms which can change their whole lives." [passage omitted]

Conflicting Views in West Bank on Gulf Crisis

Syrian Supporters Back Iraq

TA2709143490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] There has been yet another demonstration of support for Iraq by residents of the territories. Supporters of the Syrian Ba'th Party announced today that they were joining PLO supporters in backing Iraq. The remarks were made at a Jerusalem news conference. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports.

For outsiders, the meeting was ostensibly for al-Tali'ah, the laborers' vanguard of the Trade Union Movement in Judaea and Samaria, which supports the PLO and its positions. The slogans and leaflets in the hall clearly showed the organizers' real intent: one Arab nation with an eternal mission, which has been the slogan of the Syrian Ba'th Party since its inception. Jamal Bustani, a labor activist who belongs to the al-Tali'ah organization, said that after recent events those who denounce Western imperialist aggression against the Arab world and Iraq—in other words, those who denounce the United States and Israel—must express support for the PLO. Syrian Ba'th supporters in the territories, therefore, join the Iraqi Ba'th. We call on the Syrian leadership to forget its differences with Iraq and the PLO and to unite forces against the imperialist enemy, Bustani said.

Welcoming remarks were made by Shahir Sa'd, secretary general of the West Bank Trade Unions Federation, and Knesset Member Muhammad Mi'ari of the Progressive List for Peace. Afterward there was a message of support from 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad, head of the Arab Liberation Front based in Baghdad, which of course supports Iraq.

Hamas Favors Kuwait

TA2709145090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] A new leaflet was disseminated today by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Leaflet No. 64 calls for a jihad against Zionism and the Western world. The leaflet endorses the Hamas-PLO agreement to end the reciprocal violence.

Referring to the Gulf issue, the leaflet expresses support for the Muslim world and its war against Western imperialism, although it favors self-determination for Kuwait. The leaflet calls on the world to stop the siege of Iraq.

The leaflet levels harsh criticism against the Soviet Union, which it says has stabbed the Arab nation in the back.

The leaflet also sets days for strikes and other protest activities.

West Bank Losses in Crisis Put at $405 Million

TA2609170990 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Sep 90 pp 1, 11

[Report by Da'ud Kuttab]

[Text] Jerusalem—Palestinian economic experts estimate the occupied territories' losses from the Gulf crisis at around $405 million. They stress that these losses will continue annually unless alternative sources of aid are found.

These pessimistic predictions are based on initial studies undertaken by economists about the basic sources of revenue, such as the earnings of Palestinians working in Kuwait, assistance from Arab and international institutions based in Kuwait, and indirect aid to the occupied territories from Arab governments and salary deductions by expatriate Palestinians to the PLO's account.

Economists estimate that the revenue generated by Palestinians from Kuwait amounts to about $100 million, while exports of items such as marble and stone amount to $90 million.

Annual aid to the occupied territories from all sources and in all forms has been estimated at about $150 million. Economists have also estimated the halt in aid from economic and development funds based in Kuwait at around $25 million, while Kuwaiti official and unofficial aid to the occupied territories amounts to about $40 million.

Palestinian notables in the occupied territories have delivered memorandums to the consuls of foreign governments in Jerusalem indicating the amount of losses incurred by residents of the occupied territories.

Palestinian economic researcher Samir Halila told AL-QUDS that these estimates were very conservative because they ignored losses from agricultural exports and tourism, and did not define the occupied territories' losses from the costs of absorbing those returning from the Gulf states, such as the construction of schools and houses and of job creation.

Halila said these estimates overlook anticipated losses from a shortage in the revenues of Palestinians in the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia.

Halila explained that there is a new phenomenon of Palestinians in the occupied territories sending aid to their relatives in Jordan who returned from the Gulf states.

AL-SHA'B on 'Harsh' Shevardnadze Threats

TA2609162290 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Sep 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Diplomacy of Guns!"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Two days ago President Francois Mitterrand spoke at the UN General Assembly in language that was positive and reflected comprehension of the region's problems and concerns, calling for a resolution of all outstanding issues through the convocation of an international conference for peace in the region. At such a time, it is regrettable that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze made hostile remarks against Iraq that are incompatible with the close ties of friendship and joint cooperation between the friendly Soviet Union and the Arab nation. These remarks tend to serve the forces of evil, which are driving Iraq into a corner, forcing it to make difficult choices that are likely to involve the entire region in perils whose destructive consequences can only be foreseen by God.

Shevardnadze's harsh threats to use the military option against Iraq to force it to withdraw from Kuwait smell of the odor of U.S. wheat and dollars. These threats are extremely grave, since they have been uttered by a country that is a friend of the Arab nation and knows better than anyone how to deal with Arabs, who cannot be intimidated either by promises or threats. Rather, such a policy is likely to be met with more hardline positions that will endanger international detente.

It is hoped that war cries will subside, calls for peace will rise, and the world will stop driving Iraq into a corner by tightening the embargo aimed at starving Iraq, because such an inhuman act will increase the chances of an explosion in a region that is poised atop a powder keg likely to blow at any moment.

Neither threats, promises, nor huge navies and armies will restore Kuwait, protect Saudi Arabia, or safeguard the flow of oil to the world. Only a political solution that takes into account Iraq's legitimate demands and responds to the Arab and Islamic nations' will for the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf waters, in addition to the resolution of all outstanding issues in the region, can save the region from destruction and establish a comprehensive and lasting peace for all its peoples.

Jordan Violates UN Air Embargo on Iraq

JN2609125590 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] An Iraqi Airways plane landed at Amman Airport this morning with 140 passengers on board. Jordan has thus violated the UN Security Council air embargo imposed on Iraq.

An Iraqi Airways official has stated that two more Iraqi planes will arrive in Amman today. The Jordanian Transport Ministry issued a statement a short while ago asserting that Jordan will abide by the Security Council air embargo imposed on Iraq at dawn today.

Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has described the recent UN resolution as a new challenge, not only to Iraq but also to international law and morality, as he put it.

AFP says that Salih told the National Assembly that a change in the situation of foreign nationals held in Iraq might take place. He declined, however, to give any details or explanations on this issue.

Israeli, Palestinian Activists Resume Dialogue

TA2709055490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Palestinians and Israeli peace activists have apparently resumed their dialogue, interrupted by differences over the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The two sides met last night for the first time since August. They disagreed over whether analogies could be drawn between Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the Israeli control of the territories.

On the Israeli side was Hebrew University Professor Galya Golan, a Peace Now activist, and on the Palestinian side Faysal al-Husayni.

Science Minister on 'Secret' Trip to Mexico

TA2709094790 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Sep 90 p 2

[Report by Shlomo Shlotzky and Merav Arlozorov]

[Text] Professor Yuval Ne'eman, the minister of energy and infrastructure, science and technology, is currently on a secret visit to Mexico. Sources in his bureau reported that the visit was private and dealt with scientific matters. They denied that the trip's purpose was to sign an agreement increasing Mexico's oil exports to Israel. Avi Farhan, Minister Ne'eman's aide, said: "This is merely a private, half-day visit. The minister will lecture at Monterrey, and will have time for meetings on energy-related issues.

The Energy Ministry had already reported two months ago Israel's intention to increase its oil purchases from Mexico—from 1 million to 1.5 million metric tons per year. HADASHOT has learned that several days ago Ne'eman received a visa to Mexico from its embassy in Israel. The ambassador, Rogelio Martinez Aguilar, said yesterday: "I have no reports of an agreement being signed, even though I know that talks have been held on the issue in recent weeks, and that representatives from the Israeli Energy Ministry have visited Mexico."

Israel has been buying oil from Mexico since the mid-1970's, and on a contractual basis since 1979. At its peak, the supply of oil from Mexico reached 3 million metric tons per year. As a result of reforms in the local oil economy, Israel cut its purchases to just 1 million metric tons per year over the last two years. Approximately one year ago there were rumors, eventually proven false, that Mexico wanted to limit its oil supply due to international political pressure.

Histadrut Plans General Strike for 18 Oct

TA2609110090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Sep 90 pp 1, 6

[Report by Lea Levavi]

[Text] The Histadrut is planning to begin a general strike of indefinite duration on October 18 to protest against the government's economic program, Histadrut Trade Union Department Chairman Ha'im Haberfeld told a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday.

"This will be like no other strike we've ever organized," Haberfeld warned. "It won't be a symbolic one-day strike with lots of exemptions. This strike will hit the government where it hurts and will shut down the economy."

Haberfeld was trying to overcome the skepticism of reporters after several recent strike threats over wage negotiations with the government were carried out. [sentence as published]

Haberfeld told Israel Radio there was no secret agreement between Histadrut Secretary-General Yisra'el Qeysar and Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i regarding the economic program. The only agreement is to discuss how we can help with immigrant absorption and creating jobs for the unemployed. We're willing to help, but I'll repeat what I've already said: We will not let this economic program be implemented.

"If we don't stop the robbery the government has in store," Haberfeld said, "we as trade unions will be out of existence, and Israel's workers will not be able to protect themselves against whatever the government decides to do."

Words like robbery, theft and fraud were used frequently at the press conference.

The Histadrut is angry about plans to tax pension and training funds, plans to lower the minimum wage and proposed legislation which would nullify parts of existing wage agreements.

"For months, Treasury officials have been negotiating with us on a new national wage agreement, when they knew all along that these plans were being made which would render whatever they gave us worthless," Haberfeld said. "If that isn't fraud, I don't know what is."

He added that the government was cynically using immigration and unemployment as an excuse to break the trade unions and hurt workers' interests.

The general strike will directly affect half a million public sector workers, but Histadrut officials warn the entire economy will feel its impact.

Columnist Terms Saudi Measures 'Big Mistake'

JN2409090990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
24 Sep 90 p 22

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Saudi Measures!!"]

[Text] We believe the Riyadh government has made a big mistake in stopping the oil flow to Jordan through TAPLINE [Trans-Arabian Pipeline] and in requesting a reduction in the Jordanian Embassy staff. Political pressure has nothing to do with such frantic measures. If Washington was dismayed by Jordanian policy, we say it has been displeased with us since 1977. Still, U.S. dismay and displeasure do not justify the high-strung behavior of the Saudi "ally." If the Europeans have asked Iraqi military attachés to leave their countries and have boycotted Iraqi oil, Saudi Arabia's emulation of these people is not political acumen and stepping on its neighbors' toes—Jordan in the north and Yemen in the south—is a sign of fear rather than of courage. Hiding behind the Americans and NATO and huffing and puffing behind their tanks, planes, and fleets is indeed ridiculous!

Jordan has never been a Saudi satellite. The Saudis know this very well. Furthermore, the financial aid given by Saudi Arabia was in accordance with summit resolutions. It was not a favor, unless the Saudis understand pan-Arab obligations differently. So why is Riyadh following the U.S. example by expressing dismay and displeasure at Jordanian policy? What is the reason for this high-strung provocation against us and the Yemenis? And what is the reason for this manhandling of Palestinians in Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states?

We do not support the U.S. and NATO forces' occcupation of the Arab territories in the Gulf. This is our opinion and stand!

We also do not support the imperialist U.S. onslaught against Iraq because we do not believe it is aimed at defending Saudi Arabia or restoring the legitimate Kuwaiti Government. This is our opinion and stand.

Moreover, we are not ready to commit economic suicide for the sake of the United States and its allies. The compensations approved by the United Nations for Jordan are an act of bribery to make us abandon our political opinions and stands. We know these compensations are in the hands of the United States and its allies.

We are a people with dignity. The Jordanian political system is not a shaykhdom. Our country has an elected House of Representatives which derives confidence from the people. Our country also has parties and a free press. All that cannot be canceled by U.S. dismay and displeasure. At any rate, it is not possible to change the Jordanian people's convictions to please the Saudi or Gulf rulers. Our people realize the price they have paid and will continue to pay. Still, this does not make our political system press a button to make us applaud the U.S.-Atlantic invasion.

We know that our people will have to pay a heavy price for our stands and convictions and that every member of this people will pay it gladly. Let the embittered ones in Riyadh remember that those who have lost everything in Kuwait number more than the Kuwaitis themselves. There were more Palestinians and Jordanians in Kuwait than Kuwaitis. By their loss, Jordan has also lost a great deal. Still, not a single one of them has asked a single cent from the "legitimate Kuwaiti Government."

Not a single Palestinian has bowed to Israel, although four million Palestinians have lost everything and are now scattered in the diaspora. Do the gentlemen in Riyadh think that these Palestinians will bow now? Do they think that the Jordanians will bow now?

Riyadh has committed a big mistake by its measures. So we will not say more than that.

Paper Questions 'Pressures' Imposed on Nation

JN2409093290 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
24 Sep 90 Second Edition pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "What Is Required From Jordan?"]

[Text] Anyone who follows up the military and political moves in the Middle East in general and the Gulf in particular must notice that the Western policy has succeeded in fomenting a considerable number of differences between Arab countries. Concerned about the Arab order, wise Arabs have been trying to resolve these differences gradually because they believed such a move was an important element for the security, dignity, and future of all Arabs.

Perhaps one of the gravest consequences resulting from the way certain Arabs have tackled the Gulf crisis is that the Arab peoples now wonder about the real worth of joint Arab action institutions, such as the Arab League and cooperation councils. Those Arabs did not give these institutions or their membership in them any chance to prove their efficiency and effect on the stands of Arab states. This makes citizens doubt the seriousness of those Arabs' commitment to and faith in joint Arab action.

Despite this stand on joint Arab action institutions, as revealed by the uncalled-for hastiness in supporting the foreign military presence in the region with all its overall dangers, there are increasing questions posed by Arab citizens on the recent escalation against Iraq, against which a blockade which permits only air into Iraq has been imposed, as well as on the increasing pressure on Jordan, whose moderateness and concern for all Arabs has always been a source of pride and admiration.

Therefore we pose the question: What is required from Jordan? This country has been plainly committed to the UN resolutions. However, nobody spoke in support of Jordan's demand for compensation for the immense losses inflicted on Jordan as a result of abiding by the

UN resolution, although the vulnerability of the Jordanian economy and the causes of that are known to everyone.

The attempts to tighten the noose around Jordan and to deliberately misunderstand its position arouse the following basic questions: What is intended for this country? What is it required to do apart from the UN resolutions? What does pan-Arab security gain when Jordan gets hungry? What does the United States wish by trying to obstruct the UN resolutions to help it economically? They are thus only killing the moderate line, and the course that worked on "accord and reconciliation" and diligently worked to remove inter-Arab differences, without expecting anything in return.

Feelings of hatred, extremism, and violence are the only outcome of imposing starvation and uncalled-for pressures. Are we required to become extremists, full of hatred, anger, and rancor? Or are we being informed that our moderate stand on the crisis was wrong? However, this stance might prove, some time not too far away, that it is the only exit for all parties to the conflict. Everyone, sooner or later, may regret that they neglected or failed to encourage this stand.

In Jordan today there is an unprecedented national unity and cohesion among all members of the people. Likewise, the rallying of the entire people around the Hashemite leadership—which believes in God, trusts its pan-Arab orientation, and works for the good of its nation—is the most solid proof that this country will continue to be a steadfast bastion. If it is the will of God that this country be tested with hunger and fear, as the early Hashemite Muslims were tested, Jordan would rather die before it yields.

Friday Preachers Condemn U.S., Praise Iraq

JN2109144690

[Editorial report] Amman Domestic Service in Arabic at 0900 GMT on 21 September was monitored in progress transmitting live from an unspecified Amman mosque a "Friday religious lesson" by Dr. Dawud al-Fa'uri.

In his Friday religious lesson, Dr. al-Fa'uri, talks about the situation in the Gulf and says the West justifies itself in taking whatever measures it wishes against others. He says the West, which claims to be free and democratic, moves, speaks, and dispatches troops to the Gulf, but it cannot hear any voice expressing support for Iraq. He notes that in the forefront of these foreign troops, Arab and Muslim troops are being stationed "so that they will be the first to taste death and so that when Iraq triumphs, God willing, the victims will be the Arabs themselves, while Western troops would flee without losses." After referring to Western statements that "the entire Gulf is not worth a drop of American blood," Dr. al- Fa'uri says: "However, the entire Gulf is giving itself as a gift to the Western troops," and adds: "The Gulf has forgotten, especially the defenders of religion who established their rule on the basis of defending the teachings of the messenger of God, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, that the prophet said: A drop of a believer's blood is more sacred to God than the Kaaba." He goes on to deride the stance of Gulf rulers who do not care about Muslim blood.

He explains that some nations have amended their constitutions to permit the dispatch of troops abroad, but some Arab countries have sent armies even though it violates Arab constitutions. He then declares: "Therefore, every Muslim, wherever he maybe, must bear his responsibility toward the Western foreign invasion that now involves most states that revolve in the orbit of the United States or the establishments of world Zionism. The first and most important aspect of this responsibility is to declare holy jihad against all those who have intervened in Arab and Islamic affairs and who have appointed themselves defenders of the region's security." He continues that Islamic ideology requires Muslims to defend each other and urges adherence to Islamic teachings, encouraging the exercise of patience and renouncing the cheap pleasures of life in preparation for confronting Jewish and foreign invaders.

At 0945 GMT, Dr. Mahmud al-'Awatili delivers the Friday sermon. After warning against ignoring God's orders, the preacher says the forces of infidelity are arriving in the Islamic land, not knowing that they are coming to meet death. He recalls the blockade imposed by the unbelievers on Muslims in the early years of Islam and compares it to the current attempt by "atheist nations" to "besiege the Muslim peoples." He says Muslims must have the rules of Islam as their judge, not the United Nations through which five nations are trying to dominate the world. Recalling the Koranic story on God's destruction of an Abyssinian army in which elephants were used to invade Mecca in pre-Islamic times, al-'Awatili says it is ironic that the symbol of President Bush's Republican Party is the elephant, whose fate will be similar to those of the Abyssinian army. He also refers to one of the Prophet Muhammad's prophecies, in which he said: "Doomsday shall not come until a fire starts in the land of Hejaz with a light that will be reflected on camels' necks in Basra."

In a 40-minute Friday sermon relayed live by Amman television from King 'Abdallah mosque in Amman at 0940 GMT, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, member of the House of Representatives, says: "The United Nations and the Security Council came and were found to be a toy in the hands of world Zionism. This toy is manipulated by Israel's agents: The U.S. President, the British prime minister, the French president, and all infidelity. Agents stand up with them in one line and are stationed in one trench."

He adds: "What prompted the President of the United States to shed crocodile tears over Kuwait? Was it out of mercy for its rulers, out of a desire to save their lives? If so, and if that was done out of pity for the Arabs, then there are the people of Palestine. These people were expelled from their land almost 50 years ago. They are daily being killed, displaced, imprisoned, and arrested. Their limbs have been publicly broken with stones in front of the whole world. Where was America and where was the Security Council? Where are the resolutions of this false council whose respect is imposed on the entire world? Has a single resolution in favor of the Arabs been implemented? Has America withheld its material and moral support for Israel, which is perpetrating crimes every day not only in Palestine but also in Lebanon and even the whole world? And when did the British prime minister acquire the enthusiasm and zeal for the dignity of the Security Council? What is her family relationship with the Kuwaiti rulers? Maternal or paternal cousinhood, or is there blood relating them? Wake up O Arabs, and do not bring yourselves and Islam disgrace, humiliation, and ignominy. Our enemies were annoyed that an Arab country has stood up and challenged the world by saying that we are men." He then blames these "enemies" for sowing discord among the Arabs and encouraging some of them to depart from Islam, and says: "Today, the whole world—infidelity with all of its types, vehicles, ammunition, and news media—wants to impose hunger, humiliation, and ignominy on Iraq because it proved its manliness, gallantry, and dignity, and said I will burn half of Israel if any Arab country is attacked. Iraq's reward was that the Arabs plotted with the enemies of the Arabs against Iraq, which wanted to restore to the Arabs their might and dignity." He adds: "We know that war is not a picnic. We also want America, Britain, and France—the agents of Jews—and their likes among the Arabs and non-Arabs to know that war with Iraq and with the faithful who support Iraq is not a picnic. We do not care if we triumph or not, although we would like to triumph. We take into consideration the fact that we might be defeated, but when we die we will be free martyrs who meet God with a clear conscience and with swords from which the blood of enemies is dripping, rather than live in humiliation, ignominy, and capitulation."

Clashes in East Beirut 'Fiercest Since May'

NC2609183990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Violent clashes took place in East Beirut today. REUTER described the fighting as the fiercest since May. The clashes eased gradually at noon, and guarded calm now prevails on the combat lines in the area after a fifth agreement on a cease-fire was reached through the mediation committee and the joint security committee.

These clashes, which resumed intermittently at 1900, took place on the al-Dawrah, al-Nab'ah, Sinn al-Fil, Salome, Hursh Thabit, al-'Adliyah, al-Mathaf, and al-Ashrafiyah combat lines. A woman named Antoinette Wakim Abu-Nassar from al-Sabtiyah area was killed and four people were wounded as a result.

General 'Awn's forces traded accusations with the Lebanese Forces about who is responsible for the escalation and failure to adhere to the cease-fire agreements.

Amal-Hizballah Fighting Erupts in Beirut Suburb

NC2609191390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Clashes involving rocket and machine gun fire have been taking place since 1330 between Amal and Hizballah fighters in the Rawdat al-Shahidin and Hayy Farhat neighborhoods [in Beirut's southern suburb].

[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic at 1430 GMT on 26 September reports: "The security organs concerned have contained the clash between Amal and Hizballah members in al-Ghubayrah-Rawdat al-Shahidayn area of the southern suburb this afternoon. The security forces took measures to prevent a recurrence of the fighting."]

'Heavy Exodus' From 'Awn-Controlled Areas

NC2709083590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] The heavy movement of individuals and families from areas under the control of General 'Awn to the free areas continued today. We have learned that the Nahr al-Kalb crossing point has been witnessing heavy traffic congestion due to people leaving before the actual implementation of legitimacy's measures, including the imposition of a tight siege on the 'Awn-controlled areas.

AL-SAFIR newspaper affirmed today that reports about a siege and pressure on the 'Awn-controlled areas have lead to a heavy exodus of people toward the mountains, al-Biqa', Beirut, Kasrawan, and the upper al-Matn region.

Clashes Reported in Iqlim al-Tuffah, East Sidon

NC2709125490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Fighting flared up in the south beginning at 1230 today. Fierce clashes involving automatic weapons, mortars, and rockets are taking place between Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters. The shelling extended to various villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah as well as areas far from the combat lines. The clashes are concentrated on the combat lines of Jarju', 'Arab Salim, Kafr Milki, Kafr Fila, Humin al-Fawqa, Sarba, and the al-Sakhriyah hill. Shells have also fallen in the Sidon area, where according to security sources a number of people were killed or wounded. Meanwhile, clashes involving various types of weapons are taking place on the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines between the South Lebanese Army and a group of fundamentalists. Shells fell in several areas in the Jazzin and Sidon districts.

Al-Hirawi Discusses Tehran Talks With Al-Asad

NC2609175590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad talked by telephone following the latter's return from Tehran. They discussed the results of President al-Asad's talks with Iranian officials, particularly with regard to the Lebanese issue. Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad agreed to hold a summit. The date of the meeting will be set later.

Al-Hirawi on Solution of 'Awn Problem'

NC2709083390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Visitors to President Ilyas al-Hirawi have quoted him as saying that a solution to the General 'Awn problem will take place soon and that such a solution cannot be postponed under any circumstances. The president disclosed to his visitors that legitimacy now has a force of 10,000 troops ready for any eventuality.

Franjiyah on 'Awn, Grandson, Al-Hirawi

NC2709092690 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] In an interview with AL-DUWALIYAH magazine, [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah opposed taking any military action against anyone, adding that General 'Awn committed a gross error when he attacked President Hafiz al-Asad and declared what was labeled a liberation war. He said: That was a mistake that General 'Awn has rectified and recanted.

Asked if his grandson Sulayman Tony Franjiyah is now assuming responsibility under his sponsorship, President Franjiyah said: Yes. He is in the arena now. I bless all his actions and I hope he will remain on the course he has charted for himself.

President Franjiyah said that President al-Hirawi has been his friend for many years, adding: We mut give him a chance to plan and work. President Franjiyah said that he supports the reforms contained in the national accord document but cautioned that other amendments must follow in a gradual manner.

Further on Al-Asad, Iranian President's Remarks

JN2609065490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus this afternoon after a four-day official and friendly visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran where he held fruitful talks with senior Iranian leaders, especially with Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, guide of the Islamic revolution in Iran, and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

Before leaving the honor lounge at the airport, the two presidents answered journalists' questions. Asked about the visit and its results, the president said: All the meetings between us were very cordial, as expected of course. We have discussed all issues that we deemed necessary to be discussed. I do not think that any issues related to the two countries and the region were left uncovered in our discussions. The meetings between myself and brother President Hashemi-Rafsanjani were prodigious and productive. There have also been expanded meetings between the Syrian and Iranian delegations. And we met with Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i. All these meetings were permeated by a spirit of amity and friendliness. We reached a host of agreements that were signed in the presence of both countries' delegations.

The president added: We totally agree that the presence of foreign forces should be eliminated. We have discussed this issue in detail, and we have common views on it. The invasion should be eliminated, and the foreign forces' presence should be eliminated, and we will work together to correct what we deem to be incorrect.

The president added: We have discussed the situation in Lebanon. It is known that we had previously discussed this issue directly or indirectly. We will continue as in the past to support Lebanon and work to achieve its independence, the unity of its people, and its territorial integrity. We will do all that we can to save it from the tragedies it has been experiencing for long years. We will continue to cooperate with each other regarding our efforts in Lebanon. The president went on to say: Naturally, we discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict. The course of both Syria and Iran is the traditional known course in this regard. And, of course, we discussed other issues. Summarizing, I can say that we did not arrive at any points of disagreement on the issues we discussed. We have discussed issues in detail. However, we have reached results expressing our convictions and will. While thanking President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for the sentiments of brotherhood and friendliness with which we were received, along with all the other Iranian brothers with whom we met, I emphasize that this visit, the talks we have held, and the agreements we have signed constitute a turning point in and an important addition to relations between the two countries. They will leave an important positive impact on the course and development of these relations. We are totally satisfied with what we have done together. We hope that we will meet, and in fact there must be future meetings between us, whether in Tehran or in Damascus, and every meeting should add something new and important to the firm relations of cooperation between the two countries. At any rate, I am waiting for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Syria.

One of the journalists posed another question to the president about what news agencies were circulating regarding a disagreement in viewpoints which led to the extension of the visit. The president answered: Due to lack of time, I have just briefly read some of what was said by the news agencies on this issue. News agencies said that the extension was due to disagreement, but I believe the opposite is true. Had there been disagreement, then the truth would have been that the opposite is true, for the atmosphere of friendship and the nature of issues we discussed, our lengthy discussion of these issues, and the desire we had to give these issues the discussion they deserve—all necessitated that we extend the visit because we felt that we needed more time to complete discussion on some issues to reach ripe and carefully-studied results and approaches. Here, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani interrupted, saying: We had nothing left to reach agreement on. President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday said that it would be nice to have an issue on which we disagree so as to give something to journalists. Commenting on this, the president [al-Asad] laughingly said: President Hashemi-Rafsanjani did not agree with me on this. So, this is something we did disagree on. I mean, we disagreed to disagree on an issue for the sake of others.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We still recall that since the beginning of the war which Iraq waged against Iran, President Hafiz al-Asad adopted a stand on the side of right, defended this stand, and faced all kinds of pressures that were put on him in the name of Arabs and Arabism. However, his excellency the president has continued to adopt this stand and refused to dissociate himself from a country that advocates Islam, merely because this country is not an Arab country. This stand has unceasingly continued for several years. His stand was on the side of right, and he strongly defended this right.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Regarding the current tension in the Gulf, we spent 10 hours of talks in addition to our declared official talks because of the importance of the topics we discussed. We also studied the possibility of Iraq's defeat, ways to reactivate the front that is hostile to Iraq, the possibility of a large-scale clash in the region, and interference in this region's affairs. We also reached clear joint positions.

Asked if there is a difference between Syrian and Iranian positions on the foreign presence in the Gulf region, the president [al-Asad] replied: We maintain one position. His excellency was then asked: What is that position? He replied: In my reply I said that we have one position on the invasion and that we maintain one position on the presence of the foreign forces. We believe that it is the region's peoples who will be responsible for the region's security and stability. We also believe that it is the invasion of Kuwait that has brought the foreign forces to this region. Thus, those who are responsible for bringing these forces cannot be relieved of that responsibility. We do not want any invasion or any foreign forces. But we have to realize who brought whom. Otherwise, we would be unrealistic. Every side may have his own background and intentions, but we judge by facts. Therefore, we understand the situation in the region in light of our values, principles, and awareness of the real situation. On the bilateral level, I can say that we reached all these results because we have confidence, which we will try to reinforce. Syria has been trying to strengthen cooperation and brotherly and friendly relations between the Arabs and the Iranians because their common values and history enable them to strengthen these relations and ties. Therefore, we told all those involved that the war should stop and a unified Arab-Iranian front should be established because the interests of the Arabs and the Iranians and the values of the Arabs and Iran call for bolstering ties between the two sides so that Arab-Iranian relations can become an example of relations to be pursued by the other Islamic states. However, the fact that we had not been able to find an early end to the war does not make us less happy that the war has ended. We naturally share with the Arabs and the Iranians their pleasure over ending the unjustifiable war. We hope that we can overlook the pains caused to people here and in the region over the past years. We also hope that we will achieve our goals without any war and build an Arab-Iranian-Islamic front not to commit aggression against others, but to defend our interests and aspirations, to preserve our role, and to reinforce the role that we must play on this earth.

Asked about the resolutions and measures adopted by the two sides to replace the foreign forces and guarantee the region's security, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: I said that we reached resolutions, but I did not say we will disclose them to you. Here the president [al-Asad] commented on the dialogue and said: If we had planned to announce all our agreements, we would have held our meetings in your presence. Asked about press reports that President Hafiz al-Asad carried a message to him from the United States, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Americans have not reached that level of impudence to send me a message through President Hafiz al-Asad.

Asked if the topics he discussed with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani are the same as those he had discussed with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the president said: We did not discuss the same topics. For example, I did not discuss Syrian-Iranian relations with James Baker.

Saudi Foreign Minister Received by Al-Asad

JN2509193890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at 2000 tonight. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed to the president a message from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met earlier this evening with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal in the presence of the Saudi ambassador in Damascus. They discussed the situation in the region, primarily the developments in the Gulf crisis that resulted from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Departs 25 Sep

JN2509211690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2045 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, left Damascus tonight at the conclusion of a short visit. He w as seen off at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

Damascus To Meet 'Any Saudi Request' for Troops

JN2209120290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman has stressed that Syria will meet any Saudi request for more Syrian troops to join their sisterly Saudi forces in defending the territories and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against any aggression. In a statement to the French newspaper LE MONDE and Riyadh radio today, the minister added that the dispatch of Syrian forces to the region was in accordance with the recent emergency Arab summit resolutions. He pointed out that these forces are under the command of the Saudi leadership. Mr. Salman said that any solution to the Arabian Gulf crisis cannot depart from Arab and international resolutions in this regard.

Commentary Reviews Al-Asad Visit to Iran

JN2609171290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Everyone inside and outside the region, irrespective of his intentions, cannot but agree with us that the historic visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran that President leader Hafiz al-Asad concluded yesterday was more than successful and constituted an extremely important milestone that will not only affect the course of Syrian-Iranian relations, but also the course of events in the region and in the Arab and Islamic worlds, perhaps for a long time to come. Many have long wagered that a rift in Syrian-Iranian ties would subsequently cause a disruption in that important strategic relationship, whose pillars were established through the wisdom of leader al-Asad when the Islamic revolution erupted in friendly Iran, and when it declared its adoption of the principles and values of Islam and voiced absolute support for the Arabs in their fierce battle against racist Zionism and its dangerous expansionism schemes in the land and holy places of the Arabs and Islam.

If the first wager during the Iraq-Iran war and throughout its destructive years fell without causing a single brick in the wall of cohesion between Damascus and Tehran to fall, the Gulf crisis was a new opportunity for some deceptive and doubt-casting parties to place a new bet on a fresh gap that would make Tehran move away from Damascus under slogans fabricated by the enemies of Arabism and Islam, who are covertly and overtly working against the interests of Arabs and Muslims.

Confronting the dilemma of the Iraq-Iran war, Syria demanded and worked for a halt to it, stemming from the sharp, strategic vision of its struggler president, Hafiz al-Asad. In like manner, concerning the Gulf crisis, Syria did not alter its constants and did not agree to anything but to side with truth. In taking this stand, Syria found itself again in the same position as the Islamic revolution in Iran; against the principle of invasion, against the invasion of others' land and the annexation of it by force, and against the hollow glories that some are seeking to establish at the expense of peoples and their free options. Through the detailed joint statement and the remarks made by Presidents al-Asad and Rafsanjani yesterday at the conclusion of the visit, Syria and Iran foiled the wager again and unambiguously declared a single position that conforms with their principles against racist Zionism and its designs and against the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and the subsequent foreign presence in the region. This is for the sake of maintaining the full Arab rights in Palestine and restoring independence and the legitimate government to Kuwait so that foreign forces leave the land of the Arabs and Islam, and so that Arabs and Muslims may have the upper hand in deciding their present and future affairs on the basis of right and justice.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Launch Rocket Attack on Kabul Airport

BK2709073990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sept 27 (AFP)—Mujahidin gunners Thursday [27 Sep] launched a major attack on the Kabul International Airport, raking the complex with rocket fire, aviation sources said.

The rebels fired at least eight rockets, concentrating mainly on the cargo and passenger holding zones, but there was no immediate report of casualties.

"Rockets are falling everywhere," reported an official in radio contact with the airport, but he said the facility had not been officially closed down.

The attack, which began early in the day just after three giant Soviet cargo planes left the tarmac, delayed a New Delhi-to-Kabul flight, he said.

The shelling came the day after Afghan troop maneuvers were held here to test army and air force readiness and train the ruling Watan Party's civilian brigade.

Some 10,000 troops and 250 tanks and armored personnel carriers were deployed in the exercise, which was personally monitored by President Najibullah from the blockaded Home Ministry.

Government Troops Reported Active Near Kabul

LD2609173290 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Units of the General Command of Kabul Garrison today mounted a clearing up and combat operation around Kabul to prevent the firing of surface-to-surface rockets at residential areas of Kabul. A source of the General Command of Kabul garrison told military section of the BAKHTAR Information Agency that as a result of the operation 17 extremists were crushed and 16 others were wounded. Also, in the course of the operation 40 surface-to-surface Sakar rockets were captured and destroyed. The report adds: Two enemy arms and ammunition convoys consisting of 43 vehicles have been [words indistinct] and destroyed as a result of Air Force raids in the Dobandi area.

In addition, units of the Sarandoy Infantry Force mounted a combat operation in the direction of Tangi Wakhjan in Lowgar Province. As a result of the operation, 74 shells for surface-to-surface missile rockets [as heard], 24 boxes of DshK [machine gun] ammunition, two boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition, and 17 belts of machine gun ammunition have been captured. Twelve guns and [words indistinct] of the extremists have also been destroyed, and loss of life has been inflicted on them.

Army Chief Briefs Media on Troop Deployment

BK2609155790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1548 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Kabul, Sept 26 (AFP)—Kabul Army Chief General Nabi Azimi Wednesday [27 Sep] played down a massive snap deployment of troops and tanks in the Afghan capital, calling it an exercise in defence preparedness.

He also denied that a huge explosion, which shook the city's Wazir Akhbar Khan diplomatic area before troops rushed into the city center, had taken place in the vicinity of the Home Ministry, saying what people had heard was outgoing artillery.

In a briefing called inside the fortified Kabul Garrison headquarters, the general said the manouvers had involved airforce, artillery and army units and had been "aimed at testing the defence preparedness" of his men and to educate the public.

He said the exercise, which is conducted every three months, also involved ruling party cadres who were pushed into service with rifles and heavy weapons to man street corners.

The briefing came after journalists and diplomats, most of whom witnessed a coup attempt against Afghan President Najibullah in March by Army and Airforce units, had telephoned frantically to the Defence Ministry to find out why the troops had been called out.

"All important streets, important buildings and key positions were occupied by the Army," Gen. Azimi said. He added that the exercise had begun at 9:00 A.M. (0430 GMT) and had ended three hours later. He denied reports of a huge explosion in the area of the Home Ministry prior to the troop deployment, saying it had been the sound of artillery fire directed at mujahidin resistance positions in the hills around the capital.

"We had fired at the rebels," he said, referring to the blast which reverberated through the diplomatic area of Wazir Akhbar Khan. Journalists trying to reach the scene were turned back at the nearby state televsion station at gunpoint.

"This exercise proves that the Armed Forces are willing to repulse any mujahidin offensive on the Afghan capital," he said, adding that soldiers from other ministries with military wings had taken part in the surprise manouvers. "We are ready to fight off any offensive on this city," said Gen. Azimi, who controls three elite divisions totalling 24,000 men.

The briefing was recorded by national television apparently to reassure Kabul citizens who had panicked when tanks raced through the streets. "Last time we defeated a coup through our preparedness," he said referring to the March coup attempt led by former Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai.

He also said the Army had prior presidential consent for the deployment of troops in the city of 1.5 million.

Streets however remained empty late Wednesday and cars stayed off the roads despite the announcement that the manouvres were an exercise.

Observers said the participation of President Najibullah's Watan Party members in the war game appeared to indicate that the manouvre was geared more towards another possible military coup attempt than to a mujahidin attack.

Kabul Commandant Speaks on Military Maneuvers

LD2609194290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] General Muhammad Nabi ‘Azimi, first deputy minister of defense and general commandant of Kabul Garrison, presented to foreign and home journalists due explanation in a news conference this afternoon on the maneuver carried out by the reserve forces of the command in the city of Kabul today.

A correspondent of the BAKHTAR Information Agency reported to us that the general commandant in the course of the conference answered journalists' questions put to him in connection with the issue. He noted that in keeping with the plan of the General Command of Kabul Garrison such maneuvers are carried out two or three times every year to familiarize reserve units of Kabul General Command and to enhance training for combat preparedness. A section of Kabul Garrison General Command reserve units participated in today's maneuvers. Only mechanized infantry forces took part in it. More than 7,000 troops from the Army, Sarandoy, State Security, and civil forces of the Watan [Homeland] Party participated in the maneuvers.

Replying to another question, General Muhammad Nabi ‘Azimi said: Kabul Garrison is fully ready to neutralize disruptions in the city of Kabul, and security forces in the belt outside Kabul city are in complete and permanent combat preparedness. They are reinforced at appropriate times by reserve forces. They are also capable of preventing any kind of attack by the enemy.

Kabul Garrison command is right now launching separate combat operations in the directions of Khak-e Jabbar, Lowgar, and Maydan Shahr [Khowt-e ‘Ashrow] to expand [their] defensive area. Positive results have been gained there and have been reported to the compatriots through mass media.

In conclusion he said: We reassure the people of the city of Kabul that Kabul Garrison forces have fulfilled the tasks of their city and country's defense in a proper way, and they are fully prepared in this respect.

Ya‘qubi Visits, Addresses Security Units

LD2609153690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] General Ghulum Faruq Ya‘qubi, minister of state security, paid a visit this morning to the security posts in lower Arghandeh, near Paghman. The military section of the BIA reports: During the visit, the minister of state security spoke about the heroism and self-sacrifice of the members of the armed forces in preventing conspiracies and plots of the enemies of the people of Afghanistan, and expressed gratitude for their efforts and work in ensuring peace and security and the implementation of national reconciliation.

According to another report, General Ghulum Faruq Ya‘qubi participated in a meeting of members of State Security Ministry units in Kowt-e ‘Ashrow. The minister of state security spoke about the obligation and mission of the members the state security forces in ensuring peace and calm in the country, and about their future duties for safeguarding the country's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty. The head of state security in Vardak Province, in response, said that the security forces work at full strength for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy. The minister of state then commended some members of state security forces with cash awards.

Najibullah Pardons Six Iranian Prisoners

LD2609180890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] A Foreign Ministry source reports that in accordance with a decree issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, six subjects of the Islamic Republic of Iran were pardoned the remaining term of their imprisonment within the policy of national reconciliation and in observation of the principles of human rights.

The report adds that Abdorrahim, son of Abdol Hamid; Mohammad ‘Ali, son of Mohammad Reza; Abas ‘Ali, son of Gholam ‘Ali; Husayn Rohani, son of Ebrahim; Jamshid Norab, son of Gholam Husayn; Muhmud-e Markazi, son of Haji, subjects of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who were arrested by our country's security forces on charges of illegal entry, and subversive and provocative activities against the Republic of Afghanistan, were handed over to His Excellency Ebrahim Taheryan, charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul today at a ceremony held in the Storey Palace of the Foreign Ministry. They were handed over by the deputy head of the consulate department of the Foreign Ministry in the presence of Morris, head of the UN High Commission for Refugees, and representatives of the International Red Cross in Kabul.

Three of those released who were not prepared to return to their country were handed over to the head of the UN High Commission for Refugees in Kabul.

The deputy head of the consulate department of the Foreign Ministry spoke briefly about the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation and the observation of the principles of human rights in the Republic of Afghanistan. He emphasized the consolidation of relations and long-lasting neighborly ties between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Then the charge d'affaires of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul expressed thanks for the humanitarian approach of the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan in releasing six subjects of his country.

Rebels Kill 25 Kabul Soldiers 20 Sep

BK2609152790 Lahore THE NATION in English 25 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] Peshawar—The Mujahidin under Commander Ghulam Mohammad attacked Communist forces atop Meydan Shahr Pass, Varkak Province, killing 25 soldiers on September 20, sources close to Mujahidin reported to MIDIA [Media Information Department Of Islamic Afghanistan].

The report added that the Mujahidin's long range artillery destroyed five tanks and three vehicles, in this attack. According to another dispatch of the same source, the Communist military aircraft indiscriminately bombarded Ashor Pass and Zeyolat village of the Vardak province as reprisal for their defeat, the bombardments claimed four martyred and eight wounded.

Meanwhile, five officers were killed and one was captured alive, as the artillery attacked Communist military base in Arghoundi area of the Paghaman district. Similarly, the Jandullah H.Q. reported to MIDIA that the Mujahidin stepped up a surprise attack on the Communist installations in Baghi Daud area of Paghman and killed two soldiers and one officer, on September 21.

The report said the Mujahidin also attacked the 8th Army Division in Qargha-western suburb of the capital Kabul and destroyed 13 multi-barrel rocket launchers and an army lorry.

According to the report, no casualty has been inflicted upon the Mujahidin in the above attack.

Security Reports From Paktia, Zabol Provinces

LD2409164490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] The units and companies of the heroic armed forces stationed in Paktia Province are performing their national and patriotic duties with high morale and are ready to foil and defeat any possible attack by foreign agents.

Citing an authoritive source in the Armed forces, the BAKHTAR military section reports that in the last four days the warmongers fired sporadically on the front lines of the units and companies of Gardeyz and Khowst cities and the security posts surrounding them, wounding two civilians.

In retaliation, the positions of the foreign agents were attacked. As a result, a number of their positions were destroyed and they suffered losses of life. The source adds that the Armed Forces units and companies included in Nangarhar's garrison remain in their previous defense positions and enjoy high combat capability.

In the last four days the Saudi Wahhabis have fired on several positions of the units and companies. As a result of the retaliatory attacks by the units and companies, heavy losses were inflicted on them, and their six rocket launchers, mortars, and several light weapons were destroyed.

According to the same source, the units and companies stationed in Zabol Province defend their positions with Afghan heroism and bravery. The foreign lackeys fired on several positions of the units and companies around the city of Qalat on 16 September. The brave defenders of Qalat foiled the attack of the foreign lackeys and inflicted losses on them.

The units and companies stationed in Qalat carry out their national and patriotic duties in defense of Qalat with Afghan zeal and with the cooperation of the local people.

The situation is normal in other parts of the country.

India

Further on Antireservation Issue, Violence

Strike Held 26 Sep

BK2609100290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] A bundh [strike] is being observed in Delhi today in protest against the police action on anti-reservation agitators. Most of the shops and major business centers are closed. However, government offices, banks, and some other establishments are functioning. Elaborate security arrangements have been made to maintain law and order in the city. The bundh call has been given by the Delhi unit of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the Anti- Mandal Commission Forum and other anti-reservationist groups. A team of AIR [All India Radio] correspondents who went round some areas of the capital report that a few buses and private vehicles are plying. According to a DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] spokesman, buses from south, southwest, and north depots have not been taken out as a precautionary measure. However, skeleton services are being maintained in other areas. According to the police, no untoward incident has been reported from any part of the capital so far except sporadic incidents of deflating of vehicle tires and road blockades in some areas. DTC is not plying the interstate bus services and incoming buses will not also operate. The commuters and office goers faced a lot of inconvenience in reaching their destinations.

Prohibitory orders under Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more persons] have been promulgated in some areas of three police districts. These are south, southwest, and New Delhi districts.

Meanwhile, another youth who was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences succumbed to bullet injuries late last night. Five others injured in the police firing have been admitted in various hospitals. The condition of two of them is reported to be serious. The condition of the youth, Rajiv Goswamy, who attempted self-immolation last Wednesday [19 September] is critical but stable. According to the doctors attending on him he is running a temperature. Some liquid diet was given to him this morning. The president of the Delhi unit of the BJP, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, has appealed to the people to maintain peace and calm during the bundh. The lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr. Arjun Singh, has expressed the hope that the bundh will remain peaceful as assured by its organizers.

More reports of violence have come in from the states. In Haryana, an indefinite curfew was imposed in Hissar today following large-scale violence by anti-reservationists. According to an agency report the Army was called out in the town yesterday following violence after a youth committed suicide by consuming poison. The curfew imposed in Yamunanagar and Sirsa since yesterday is continuing. The Army has been deployed in six districts in the state for maintaining law and order. The condition of the youth, Chattarpal, of Ballapgarh, who was admitted to Loknaik Jayprakash Narayan Hospital in the capital two days ago with 70 percent burn injuries is serious but stable.

In Punjab, indefinite curfew has been clamped in Ludhiana City this afternoon following some incidents of violence and arson by the Anti-Mandal Commission agitators. One agitator died when he fell down from a truck in which he was traveling and another youth was injured in a clash between anti- and pro-Mandal Commission agitators. Elsewhere in Punjab, shops remained closed today in most parts of the state in response to the bundh call given by the Anti-Mandal Commission Joint Action Committee. The essential services are, however, functioning as normal and supply of milk, vegetables, and fodder from rural areas have not been affected. In Sangrur District, the agitators set ablaze the engine and about six bogies of the Kalka Mail [train] at Dhuri railway station this morning. Some government offices were also set ablaze by the agitators.

In Uttar Pradesh, two employees of the Post and Telegraph Department in Gaziabad received burn injuries when they were trapped inside a post office which was set afire. According to agency reports, the agitators set on fire a passenger train between Hapur and Babugarh railway stations.

In Rajasthan, a bundh is being observed in Jaipur in response to a call by anti-reservationists. In Jammu, normal life has been affected following a bundh call given by anti-reservation agitators in protest against police firing in Delhi yesterday.

Singh Makes 'Emotional' Appeal

BK2609162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has again made a fervent appeal to the students to come forward for a dialogue and said the goal of his government is to provide social justice and not to deprive any one of employment opportunities. He said the government is ready to discuss the problems of employment with them and find ways jointly of ensuring that employment opportunities are expanded and not restricted. He said he is prepared to take any steps consistent with the basic need for social justice to dispel the fears that mollify the feeling of those sections of the youth who are apprehensive about their future. [sentence as heard]

In a highly emotional statement in New Delhi today, Mr. V.P. Singh said that in his two decades of political life nothing has caused him more profound anguish than the decision of some young students to immolate themselves. He said he has sons not much older than these tragically misguided young people and each such death is a personal blow to him.

Mr. V.P. Singh said that he is discussing this matter with friendly parties today and will take it up with other political parties in the next few days. He said there have been demands for his resignation from some quarters and reassured the people that he has no intention to shirk the responsibility that has been cast on him. He made it clear that if he has to choose between a cause and his office, he will not hesitate to stand by the cause. He also said that he cannot barter away the aspirations of the deprived simply to retain his chair.

The prime minister said that he is satisfied that in this year of social justice, the National Front government has been able to bring hope to those who are socially oppressed for centuries. He said the government has opened a small door to give them a share in shaping the destiny of the nation. That door cannot be closed again and all future governments will never be able to take away what has been given.

The prime minister asked the youth not to entertain any fears and advise them to work out jointly the concrete steps that are needed for a better and more secure future for them and to build a just social order. He asked them to join the government in building a better future.

Further Deaths Reported

BK2609165090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Reports of more violence and imposition of curfew have come in from several states. Rail traffic was disrupted and railway property damaged in Delhi, Ambala, Muradabad, and Ferozepur divisions in the wake of anti-reservation stir. In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew was imposed in Jammu city and Udhampur town following incidents of large-scale violence and arson. Army has been called out to help civil administration in maintaining law and order. One person was killed in police firing in Jammu city chowk [square] as violence mob surrounded a police station and indulged in heavy stone pelting. Ten policemen, including an inspector of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] were injured.

In Uttar Pradesh, four persons were killed and several injured in police firing. Indefinite curfew has been clamped in Modinagar town of Gaziabad District. The state home secretary said in Lucknow that the anti-reservation activists indulged in arson and set ablaze several roadways buses. A number of police personnel have been injured. The situation is stated to be tense, but under control. Additional police forces have been deployed in disturbed areas to maintain law and order.

In Madhya Pradesh, an indefinite curfew was clamped on 12 police station areas in Indore following violence. The trouble started after a student tried to immolate himself. He was immediately hospitalized with 20 percent burn injuries. The situation is reported to be under control.

Army has been called out in Jaipur following large-scale violence during the 12-hour bundh [strike] called by anti-reservation activists. Normal life was completely paralyzed and main markets, shops, and business establishments were closed. Indefinite curfew has also been clamped in Ludhiana city and Barnala and Dhuri towns of Punjab because of arson and violence. Reports of violence, arson, and disruption of traffic have also come in from Ropar, Sangrur, Faridkot, Patiala, and Gurdaspur districts.

In Haryana, curfew was clamped in Hissa today. The existing curfew in Hissar has been extended till the second of next month. According to an official spokesman, one more person was killed and 26 injured in a clash between pro and anti-Mandal groups in Kalanwali town of Sirsa District today. The situation in Rohtak, Yamunanagar, Karnal, Kurukshetra, and Ambala where army has been called to help the civil administration is stated to be tense, but under control. According to Northern Railway, the Shalimar Express [train] coming from Jammu Tawi to New Delhi was set on fire at Modinagar. Four coaches and the engine of the Kalka-Lalgarh Express was set on fire at Dhuri station in Amabla division, while one coach of the Hardiwar-Rishikesh passenger train was burnt between Rishikesh and Birbadhra railway stations. The railway sources say that a number of other trains were either regulated or cancelled.

Police Fire on Delhi Mob 27 Sep

BK2709081990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] In Delhi, the police resorted to firing to disperse a violent mob in Shakarpur area of East Delhi this morning. Reports say that one person was killed and three injured in the firing. According to police, the mob set fire to some vehicles and indulged in brickbatting. The sources also said there have been sporadic incidents of violence, road blockades, and traffic holdup in some areas of East and West Delhi. There were also attempts to detain trains in the outskirts of the city. The sources said intensive patrolling is continuing in sensitive areas to maintain law and order. Armed police pickets have also been posted at vulnerable places. A school student today attempted self-immolation in West Delhi. He was immediately rushed to hospital and his condition is said to be serious.

The Delhi Transport Corporation [DTC] is running a skeleton service in the city, barring some areas, including rural pockets. A DTC spokesman told our correspondent that bus services are maintained to the New Delhi railway stations and interstate bus terminal. He, however, said that interservice services are suspended for the third day today. The spokesman has appealed to the public, particularly youths, not to damage the buses.

Reports received from other states, where antireservation agitation has spread, say that the situation so far is, by and large, peaceful.

In Jammu and Kashmir, indefinite curfew continues in Jammu and Udhampur cities. No untoward incident has been reported since last night. In an appeal, leaders of various political parties and organziations called upon the students to excercise restraint and to help in restoration of normalcy. The situation in Meerut is reported to be comparatively peaceful barring a few incidents of arson. PTI reports that in Jaipur, the situation was peaceful this morning. No untoward incident was reported from any part of the city after the army was called out. In Indore, where indefinite curfew was imposed yesterday, the situation is reported peaceful. Curfew was relaxed for two hours this morning.

Orissa Chief Hails Dialogue

BK2409101190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] The Orissa chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, has hailed the prime minister's decision to initiate a dialogue with the agitating students on the reservation [of jobs to the lower classes] issue. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr. Biju Patnaik suggested that the talks should begin as early as possible to prevent further loss of life. He called upon the youths and students to come forward to resolve the problem.

UN Air Embargo Not To Affect Indian Flights

BK2709055290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the air embargo will not create any difficulties for the Indian flights evacuating its nationals from Kuwait and Iraq since such flights are on humanitarian missions. He also clarified if necessary the matter will be taken up with the United Nations.

The Indian Air Force is to operate two special flights from Basra to Bombay today. The planes will carry about 500 Indian nationals from Kuwait, who could not perform the road journey.

Commentary Views Economic Impact of Gulf Crisis

BK2509165090 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Gulf crisis following the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq on 2 August has put an unprecedented burden on the Indian economy which was already reeling under the strains of high budget deficit, serious balance of payment problems and inflationary pressures. The external affairs minister, Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral, while addressing the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to his ministry recently, disclosed that so far the Gulf crisis had cost India $3.4 billion. This was in terms of loss of trade and remittances, disruption of projects and the huge evacuation of 60,000 Indian nationals. Over 23,000 more will be repatriated within next one week to complete the massive effort of bringing back the stranded Indians from Kuwait, which has no parallel in the history.

The major impact of the Gulf crisis on the Indian economy has been in the oil sector. At stake for India is 40 percent of its oil imports. The absence of supplies from Iraq and Kuwait totalling 8.25 million tons has to be made up from other sources and spot purchases. Besides, India has to arrange an additional foreign exchange to the tune of 20 billion rupees to 30 billion rupees during the current fiscal year for paying higher prices for the crude oil and the petroleum products. As regards remittances, of course, there has been a spurt in the recent weeks which is a temporary phenomenon. But the long-term prospects of the loss of jobs for the Indians, especially in Kuwait, have got ominous consequences for the future of the Indian economy unless special measures are taken expeditiously to step up the exports in hard currency areas. The amount that had been remitted to the Indian banks in NRI [non-resident Indians] accounts since 2 August this year is estimated to have crossed $1.5 billion. But doubtful is the future of the steady flow of annual remittances of over 60 billion rupees.

India was able to absorb the last oil shock due to the buoyancy of remittances fom the Gulf. But this time the Indian economy face a dual attack—namely higher foreign exchange outgo due to the steep hike in the crude oil prices and the possibility of the remittances coming down as a result of the uncertain situation in the Gulf. Indian exporters are having a tough time in continuing their exports to the Gulf region and to Iraq itself. [sentence as heard] About $400 million are involved in the form of dues to the Indian construction companies and export houses. The government has just set up a high-level committee headed by the commerce secretary, Mr. S.P. Shukla, to take immediate decisions on the problems being faced by the Indian exporters to the Gulf region. The Gulf region accounts for about seven percent of India's exports and 15 percent of India's imports. Exports to Kuwait and Iraq alone account for about 1.17 percent of India's global exports. Major items of exports to the Gulf are engineering goods, chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, textiles, processed food, and spices and tea. Exports to Iraq and Kuwait during 1989-90 stood at 1,250 million rupees and 1,970 million rupees respectively. Exports to West Asia in general, including the Gulf, are placed at 17.44 billion rupees. Both in terms of project exports and general exports, India stands to lose substantially.

In the case of project exports, India may lose as much as 1.8 billion rupees this year which it would have otherwise got from Iraq as part of the deferred payment agreement. India also stands to lose its share in the multi-country project for the development of Iraqi railways. India's share in this huge railway project was estimated at $2 billion. The Gulf crisis has given a big jolt to the measures being thought of earlier by the government to meet the balance of payment situation. While at the domestic level, the government is working on a series of measures to conserve the precious foreign exchange by restricting the consumption of petroleum products, the situation certainly calls for special accommodation by the international financing agencies to meet the worsening balance of payments crisis as a result of the Gulf situation.

India has already presented the case of such an accommodation to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Happy indications are there that India and some other oil importing developing countries like Bangladesh and Philippines will be provided IMF-World Bank assistance to tide over the present crisis.

Repatriations From Amman, Al-Basra Reported

BK2509162890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] A total of 69,764 Indian nationals have been brought home from Amman and al-Basra so far. According to a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry, a bus transporting Indians overturned about 120 km from Amman, killing Sheikh Mujib Ahmad from Andhra Pradesh on the spot. Nine others were injured. The condition of five is serious.

Iran

Mohtashemi Calls For 'Holy War' Against U.S.

NC2709084690 Paris AFP in English 0822 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran Sept 27 (AFP)—Leading Iranian hardliner 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi Thursday called on the country to prepare for holy war against the United States and urged people to join in a massive demonstration here.

"From this moment, we must begin to organise the holy war and the struggle against America," the Tehran MP and former interior minister told the ABRAR newspaper.

Mr. Mohtashemi urged people to "take part in a massive way" in a demonstration called for Friday [28 September] in Tehran by the Islamic Propagation Organisation to protest the deployment of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia. "Tomorrow the people must denounce the aggression of the United States and its allies against the maritime borders of Iran, and they must take part in the holy war called forth by the guide of the Islamic revolution," he said.

Spiritual leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamenei said September 12 that popular Islamic resistance to the U.S. presence in the Gulf amounted to holy war. His statement was seen as a challenge to the government of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which has sought to open up to the West.

Washington has deployed more than 140,000 troops in a bid to dissuade Iraq from attacking Gulf states after its invasion of Kuwait and to enforce sanctions ordered against Baghdad by the U.N. Security Council.

On Wednesday Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in New York for the UN General Assembly, distanced himself from the demonstration called for Friday, saying the government had not organised it.

The Islamic Propagation Organisation is considered however to be a government agency.

Mr. Velayati also told U.S. television that Iran opposed the "permanent" presence of foreign forces in the Gulf, a hint that the government would accept a temporary build-up despite the opposition in hardline circles.

Iran has condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and pledged to respect the U.N. embargo. But Mr. Velayati said that if the sanctions failed, "there is no solution but a military solution."

An Islamic delegation led by the chief of Jordan's Moslem Brotherhood Mohammed 'Abd al-Rahman Khalifeh arrived here Thursday to take part in the demonstration.

Office Denies Press Reflects President's View

LD2609173890 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 26, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani airs his views either personally or through his public relations office, and no newspaper reflects his ideas as alleged by the foreign media, it was announced by the presidential office today.

The office in a statement denied foreign media attributions of certain Iranian newspapers to the president, and said all Iranian media played an equal role concerning the reflection of the president's views.

The foreign media have recently been trying to suggest that certain domestic newspapers conveyed the president's viewpoints, or quoted sources "close to the presidential bureau" in their reports.

"His excellency the president would announce his viewpoints personally or through the public relations office as usual," the office said.

Khamene'i on Need to Eliminate Illiteracy

LD2609132290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i addressing a large number of people from various strata of the Hezbollah Ummah, who visited him this morning, referred to the ninth anniversary of the end of the Abadan siege. He then said that reliance on God, the will to accept self-sacrifice, and unanimity of word are principal and effective elements in bringing about all previous and future victories of the Iranian nation.

At the audience, in which the people expressed their sincere feelings and chanted slogans in obedience to the orders of the leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that the victory of the great Iranian nation over any world material power is a definite and inevitable fact if it is through reliance on God, respect for Islamic values, and obedience to the officials in charge of the affairs and preservation of unity of word.

In his remarks addressed to officials in charge of the Literacy Campaign Office, who were present at the audience, the leader of the Islamic revolution said: Science and literacy are the most valued gifts the teachers of the Literacy Campaign can offer to the people in the towns, villages, and remote areas. In an age in which the big powers misue the illiteracy and lack of awareness of the people to attain their own ends, learning, and teaching the illiterates will be counted as jihad.

He said illiteracy is a stain on the reputation of various societies, especially revolutionary and Muslim societies. He called on everyone to make efforts to eradicate illiteracy. The exalted leader explained the importance of science to Islam and to the Qoran. He also remarked on the scientific advances achieved by Islamic societies in the past, and stressed that any serious effort to eradicate illiteracy is an Islamic duty.

Continuing his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to Police Day, and said: People rely on the police in daily events. Therefore, in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the police are regarded as an establishment trusted by the people. Police officers and noncommissioned officers, as well as all other personnel, must make efforts to achieve development, and in so doing they must receive help from the ideological-political units. They must be model Islamic police.

The leader of the Islamic revolution also referred to the approaching date for elections to the Experts Assembly. Speaking on the great importance of the elections, he said: The supervisors, as well as the members of executive supervisory teams of the elections, must act according to legal criteria. In the implementation of their duties they must shun private likes and dislikes, factionalism, and political inclinations. They must do so to prevent the enemies from slandering these important elections. He recommended to the experts assembly elections supervisory board members to put aside their personal tastes, saying: No criteria should be incompatible with the law. Faith, Islam, and revolution are those things which have already been incorporated into the framework of Majlis legislation and approved by the respectable Guardianship Council.

In conclusion, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to the end of the enemy siege of Abadan, which was brought about by sincere and self-sacrificing youth and combatants, saying: The enemy siege of Abadan was broken through a major feat of self-sacrifice under conditions when the global arrogance believed that if Abadan fell, then the problem of the Islamic Republic would also be solved. But forces of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, the Army, and the Mobilization [basij] forces, relying on God, and showing self-sacrifice and unity of word, attacked and pounded the enemy.

The leader of Islamic revolution said the countries whose governments are obedient to global arrogance are prisons for their people. Referring to the fact that the Muslim nation of Iran had an honorable and pride-inspiring life, he said: Thanks to the courage and resistence of the Muslim Iranian nation, today no foreign or enemy policy prevails over Iran; today, only the people decide their own fate. Individuals like the representatives of our Majlis, which would be a source of pride to any other country and nation, as well as the president of the republic and other officials, are all from the class of people who have experienced oppression, and thus they know about pain, and are free and proud. They think of nothing but the interests of the people.

He said a healthy life style, attainment of self-sufficiency, the activation of industry and agriculture, labor productivity and creativity, as well as revival of arid lands and utilization of mines, resources, and talents could only be possible through self-sacrifice and resistence. At the end of his remarks he invited the individual members of the audience to safeguard the unity of word, to rely on God in performance of duties, and to give priority to the interests of the country, the revolution and nation over personal and factional interests.

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Returned POW's

LD2409181490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Excerpts] On the third day of the vicrtory celebrations, there was a large gathering of the azadegan [free people; i.e. released POW's] next to the holy shrine of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified. According to a report of our correspondents, at this rally the azadegan chanted the slogan: Long-live Imam Khomeyni's memory and long-live our leader Khamene'i. They reiterated support for the aspirations and values of the Islamic revolution and renewed allegiance to the honorable leader. [passage omitted]

Afterwards Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni made a comprehensive speech in which he referred to the azadegan's steadfastness during the hardship of captivity. He said: You tolerated all the torture and today you have returned with pride to your homes and the embrace of the nation. Here the authorities and the officials of the system too, stood firm against all conspiracies.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni praised the azadegan, and referred to the onslaught of the arrogant powers against the Islamic revolution in the course of the imposed war and His Holiness Imam Khomeyni's high moral and determination in the face of this onslaught. He added: During your hard days in captivity, your compatriots, here, in continuation of your path, defended the Islamic revolution. If we agreed to receive delegations from the hostile states, it was because we wanted to have you next to us here.

At the conclusion of these ceremonies, evening congregational prayers were held under the imamate of Hojjat ol-'Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

Syrian Planning Minister Holds Talks in Tehran

LD2409100590 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—Methods of planning in Iran and Syria were discussed in Monday's meeting of the visiting Syrian state minister for planning Sabah Baqjaji and vice-president and head of the plan and budget organisation Masiud Rowghani-Zanjani.

The two later inspected satellite installations of the organisation in Kararj, west of here. Baqjaja arrived here Saturday accompanying Syrian President Hafiez al-Asad on a 3-day official visit. President al-Asad's visit has been extended due to the importance of the talks in the wake of the current crisis in the Persian Gulf.

Syria To Cooperate in Fight Against Drugs

LD2409153790 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 24, IRNA—Syria is ready to exchange information with the Islamic Republic on drug smuggling and cooperate in the fight against drug traffickers, Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah told his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri last night. Harbah also welcomed any effort for expansion of mutual ties.

Hoj. Nuri briefed the visitor on the "significant results" of Iran's drug campaign and called for joint struggle between the two countries against drug traffickers.

Harabah is accompanying president Hafiz al-Asad on his visit to Iran which began Saturday.

Commentary Reviews Results of Al-Asad Visit

LD2509150190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear listeners. As you heard in the news, Mr. Hafiz al- Asad, the president of the Syrian Arab Republic, left our country at noon today after extending his three-day visit to Iran by one day. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable president of the republic, gave the following reason for the extension of the trip yesterday after the first round of talks [as heard] with the high ranking Syrian delegation: regional issues are changing rapidly and new issues demand new talks and discussions.

So far, the high ranking Syrian delegation has, in the course of several rounds of talks, exchanged views with Iranian officials mainly about bilateral ties, the Persian Gulf crisis, and Palestinian and Lebanese issues. The Syrian delegation also met with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution and the guardian of Muslims, after a pilgrimage to the shrine of the eighth imam of the world's Shiites, His Holiness Imam Reza, may peace be on him, in holy Mashhad.

Our country's president referred to the importance of the visit by Mr. Hafiz al-Asad and his accompanying delegation's and the bilateral talks, and stressed: In view of the extensive cooperation between the two countries at a high political level, we believe that the task of laying the groundwork for cooperation in other areas must be seriously pursued.

In connection with the visit, Mr. Hafiz al-Asad expressed satisfaction with his trip to Iran and said: This visit to Tehran and the meeting the honorable president of the republic was filled with useful thoughts and ideas. After the second round of talks between the two sides, the viewpoints of Iranian and Syrian officials on regional and international issues have drawn closer together to a large extent. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction about the work of officials on political and technical committees during the visit and said: We have, fortunately, had very good results so far and these results can be a very good basis for the expansion of the two countries' good ties in the future.

The technical and fringe meetings which have taken place so far between Iranian and Syrian officials included the meeting between Muhammad al-'Imadi, the Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade, and Mr. Mirzadeh, the president's executive deputy, as a result of which agreements were reached about construction and scientific and technical affairs. Iran and Syria are also to establish a joint construction/contract work company to implement construction projects in either of the two countries or in other countries. Mr. Muhammad Harba, the Syrian interior minister also met with Mr. Nuri, his Iranian counterpart, and the Syrian planning minister met with Mr. Roqani-Zanjani, our country's vice president and head of the Budget and Planning Organization to discuss economic and developmental projects in the two countries.

Since several economic ministers of the Syrian Cabinet accompanied their president on his trip to Tehran, the talks are seen to be [economically] important. At the same time, however, the attention of political observers is mainly focused on the political agreements and achievements of the Syrian president's trip to Iran, because the two countries can play a prominent role in resolving the current Persian Gulf crisis. In addition to which, Iran and Syria have long joint borders with Iraq.

The stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the most powerful country in the Persian Gulf region, has a determining effect on the manner in which the Persian Gulf crisis develops. Political analysts, who are interested in the results of the talks between the Iranian and Syrian presidents, believe that a kind of understanding and shared opinion exists in the two countries' stands on the Persian Gulf crisis.

ABRAR Editorial Asseses Syrian Position

JN2309201090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Iranian media have focused on President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Iran. All the newspapers published news on his excellency's talks with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. They also carried pictures of the two presidents. In addition, Iranian radio broadcast news on the visit as well as the two presidents' speeches during the dinner banquet hosted in honor of the president last night.

In its editorial entitled "The Tehran Talks Encapsulate Future Iranian-Syrian relations," the newspaper ABRAR said that Iran could not forget Syria's position during the Iraq-Iran war. The paper stressed the importance of relations between the two countries in solving the region's crises, including the Gulf crisis, the Palestine question, and the Lebanese issue. It added that the Tehran talks would deal with the Gulf crisis, pointing out that Damascus has always been a main base for struggle against the Zionist entity. The paper also said that the positions of the region's progressive forces needed to be coordinated. It noted Iran's firm stance on the rights of the Arabs and the oppressed nations. [passage omitted]

Khatami Calls For Fighting Propaganda War

LD2709090590 Tehran IRNA in English 0714 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Havana, Sept. 27, IRNA—Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami said here Wednesday that the oppressor world powers exploit a complex publicity system in order to manipulate the international conscience towards their own goals. Addressing the third conference of information ministers of the non-aligned nations he added that the Western media have repeatedly promoted the insincere viewpoints of the U.S. Administrations and prepared a situation ripe for U.S. aggression against other countries such as was the case with Grenada.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami said the non-aligned nations, too, should try to neutralize the effect of prejudiced propaganda against the non-aligned countries by the Western 'money-giants and power-monsters'. He indicated that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait today is comparable in nature to Iraq's aggression on Iran on September 22, 1980, but noted that a look at the position of the international media on the two situations betrays the "unwelcome situation dominating the international political scene and the ruling atmosphere of the international mass media."

In his 20-minute address to the conference Iran's minister disapproved resigned attitudes towards the situation by the non-aligned nations saying "Those who see the solution to the problem in the peaceful coexistence with power-mongers are either ignorant or prompted by private motives." The third conference of non-aligned information ministers opened here in the presence of Cuban President Fidel Castro Tuesday. 48 non-aligned nations are participating in the conference which is to continue until Saturday.

Further on Arrival of Muslim Delegation

LD2609175790 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 26, IRNA—A delegation comprising leading political activists from several Muslim countries arrived here today, and was welcomed by Deputy Foreign Minister for Afro-Arab affairs Hoseyn Sheykholeslam at Mehrabad Airport.

Led by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, secretary of Jordan's Ikhwan al-Muslimin (Muslim Brotherhood), the Muslim team said upon arrival that the current crisis in the Persian Gulf "especially the U.S. encroachment on Islam's holy lands has wounded the sentiments of the Ummah."

Khalifah said the U.S.-led intrusion coupled with other issues of the Muslim world necessitate talks with officials of the Islamic Republic.

He continued that following its occupation of Holy Quds (the first Qiblah of Islam) global arrogance has encroached upon the Arabian Peninsula particularly the two holiest shrines in Mecca and Medina. "This aggression is heavy for all Muslims," he added.

Foreign forces had planned the invasion of the Persian Gulf region beforehand, "and are scheming to implement their sinister designs by taking advantage of the disputes between Muslim states," added the Ikhwan leader from Jordan.

He called Islamic Iran "the land of ulema" and said that in view of the current crisis, Muslim activists have grouped together to discuss Persian Gulf developments and other issues of the Muslim world with Iranian officials.

He said the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979 opened a new chapter in Islamic history, and ushered in Islamic unity on the basis of the Holy Quran and traditions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The group includes former secretary general of Sudan's national Islamic Front Hassan al-Turabni, secretary of Pakistan's Islamic assembly Qazi Hasan Ahmed, vice-chairman of the assembly and former Pakistani senator Khurshid Ahmed Khan, leader of Tunisia's Islamic Trend movement Rachid al-Ghannouchi, representative of Palestine Hamas [Islamic Resistance] movement Ibrahim Ghawshah, leader of Yemen's Ikhwan al-Muslimin Yasin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Algeria's Mahfuz Nakhnah, leader of the Egyptian Socialist Party Ibrahim Shukri, Jordanian parliamentarian Ibrahim Muhammad Mas'ud, former Jordanian Interior Minister Kamil al-Sharif, prominent Palestinian figure Munir Shafiq, and several others from Malaysia, Jordan and Pakistan.

Velayati Departs for General Assembly Session

LD2409070890 Tehran IRNA in English 0504 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for New York this morning to take part in the 45th meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

Velayati is to deliver a speech at the General Assembly and meet with his counterparts from other countries. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is regarded as one of the most important parts of the meeting's agenda.

Meets With Counterparts on Gulf

LD2509082190 Tehran IRNA in English 0711 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 25, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait with his Argentine, Japanese and West german counterparts here Monday. All sides condemned the last month Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and three ministers expressed interest in expansion of ties with Tehran.

Velayati who is here for the 45th session of the U.N. General Assembly, reiterated Iran's opposition to use of force in international relations and stressed that Iran will not accept any changes in political geography of the region. Iran's foreign minister also told his counterparts that security of the Persian Gulf was the responsibility of the littoral states.

He also underscored Iran's commitment to the U.N. Security Council resolutions on ending Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama welcomed the cessation of hostilities between Tehran-Baghdad and said the move will pave the way for estabishment of peace between the two countries.

He also said that Japan was ready to participate in Iran's reconstruction. Condemning the Iraqi invasion of

Kuwait Nakayama said that the unacceptable move has jeopardized international order, peace and security.

Velayati in a separate meeting with his German counterpart Hans- Dietrich Genscher deplored presence of the foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region as well as the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Genscher referring to the statements of U.S. secretary of state, said that American forces did not intend to remain in the Persian Gulf and the need to ward off aggression has brought foreign forces to the region.

He also hoped to visit Tehran after unification of the two Germanys. Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo also told Velayati that he hopes to visit Tehran in a near future. He also regretted that the international community failed to take a firm and proper action vis-a-vis the aggressor in the 1980-88 Iraqi imposed war.

Velayati said that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was the outcome of negligence of the world powers in preventing aggresion and added now the accuracy of Iran's claims has been proven to the world. Iran's foreign minister also expressed satisfaction with the expansion of Tehran-Buenos Aires ties during the past year and said that the Iranian commerce minister will visit Argentina in the near future. Foreign Minister Velayati left Tehran for New York Monday at the head of a delegation.

Finance Minister Meets Algeria, Japan Officials

LD2609075190 Tehran IRNA in English 0652 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Washington, Sept. 26, IRNA—Iran's Minister of Economics and Finance Mohsen Nurbakhsh and Central Bank's governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli met with Japanese Finance minister Ryutaro Hashimoto here Monday. The officials are currently here for the annual meeting of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary fund (IMF).

The two sides discussed Tehran-Tokyo relations and their significant improvement over the past year. Both officials stressed the need for further expansion of Iran-Japan ties in future and importance of bilateral economic relations in the wake of the current developments in the Persian Gulf region.

The same day Nurbakhsh also held talks with Algerian Minister of finance Ghazi Hidouci focusing on bilateral economic and commercial relations. The Iranian minister raising the Persian Gulf crisis stressed that the issues of the Middle East must be sorted out by the regional countries and called for non-interference of Western countries in Muslim affairs. The Iranian officials arrived here last week to attend the annual meeting of the WB and IMF.

Kurdish Rebel Attacks Damage Machinery

PM2609131190 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 19 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] Tehran—KEYHAN HAVAI news service—22 Shahrivar, 13 September—Elements linked to counterrevolutionary groups staged two attacks against irrigation works, setting their heavy machinery on fire.

This report from Orumiyeh and Sanandaj indicates that the attacks of elements linked to counterrevolutionary groups, against irrigation companies, took place in the area of Mian-doab near the villages of Ja'far-abad and Tandoz.

This same report indicates that in the attack against the "Ahab" company in the village of Chelig near Mian-doab, eight pieces of machinery from the company were set on fire.

The counterrevolutionaries, in another attack on the workshop of a company, set on fire one canal-digging machine, one loader, one bulldozer, one 10-ton Mecedes irrigating machine and four trucks.

One radio transmitter which calls itself the Voice of Kordestan, admitted responsibility for setting fire to the equipment in the workshop and announced that the counterrevolutionary elements had taken as prisoner the irrigation company's security guard.

The irrigation works in the Mian-doab region are active in order to promote agriculture in this area's villages.

Khuzestan Governor-General Discusses Airport

NC2609090190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] The reconstruction and repair of the Abadan International Airport runways have been completed, and this airport is now ready for operation, according to the Khuzestan governor-general who addressed a news conference in Ahvaz last night. He also added that preparations are being made for the commencement of flights from this airport.

The Khuzestan governor-general, who was speaking on the fifth day of Sacred Defense Week for reconstruction and the preservation of the Islamic revolution's values, discussed the process of reconstruction in the war-stricken areas in Khuzestan province and added: More than 19,000 licenses for houses and commercial units have been issued in Abadan and reconstruction has been completed on 1,428 units. He said: So far 25 elementary schools have been reconstructed and have begun operations in the city of Abadan and in villages.

Mr. Tavalla'i said: The reconstruction work on 4,000 organizational houses in Abadan has been started by the Petroleum Ministry, and the progress so far ranges between 30 to 95 percent. The Khuzestan governor-general added: On the basis of the new reconstruction policy, 250,000 people in Khorramshahr and 450,000 people in Abadan will be housed in the first phase.

Paper Views Problems of Lengthy U.S. Presence

LD2709091490 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—The United States cannot afford a lengthy encounter in the Persian Gulf, predicted the English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial Thursday. It said U.S. President George Bush's decision to intervene militarily in the present Persian Gulf crisis would further beef up the American contingent in the region. Furthermore, the U.S. by calling up reserves for the first time in twenty years has raised the spectre of war in this part of the globe, it added.

Asking whether Bush's war maneuvers in the Persian Gulf bring about Washington's desired results, the paper said, "it appears that Bush has realized the long-term perils the United States will face in case of an all-out confrontation." It further believed "the future of America as a superpower now hangs by its ability to force Saddam Husayn's troops out of Kuwait—a prospect that seems to dim with each passing day."

"The Persian Gulf crisis," the paper continued, "also served to reveal rifts between American and her allies in Western Europe as well as its relations with foe-turned-friend, the Soviet Union." It added, "with the American economy on the verge of massive recession, the staggering cost of daily operations incurred by the United States just to save the Saudi Arabian rulers forewarns a bleak future for America."

"There is also a threat of a new wave of retalitory attacks on American and military targets in the Middle East and beyond. Already the U.S. presence in such concentration in the land which is home for Islam's holiest places have created burning discontent in the Muslim world."

Stressing that Bush's policy vis-a-vis the present crisis in the Persian Gulf is characterized by miscalculation, the daily concluded, "the United States cannot afford a lengthy encounter because the longer the Americans stay in the Persian Gulf, the more problems they will have to encounter. An American military action against Iraq will only result in losses far greater than any benefit it may yield."

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Efforts for Legitimacy

LD2409122990 Tehran IRNA in English 1206 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—The U.S. is after arranging a regional security pact in the Persian Gulf region in an attempt to legitimise its presence there, said an Iranian weekly. In a commentary in its latest issue 'KAYHAN HAVAI' (airmail edition of KAYHAN) was pointing to the U.S. proposal to set up a defensive and security system in the Persian Gulf region in the wake of the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The need for establishement of a system to safeguard peace and security in the region has already been underlined by Iran with a view to preserving the rights and economic resources of the regional nations as well as cutting off the hands of alien powers, it said. But, the weekly added, the West and the U.S. client reactionary regimes in the region are intent to establish such a system to secure the interests of the West and guarantee continuation of the U.S. domination on the oil resources in the region.

Thus, it believed, it would be more appropriate to refer to Washington's plan as a "military-security pact" rather than a "security structure". As to the intention behind the scheme, its initiators and beneficiaries, the paper said Washington aims to legitimise its presence in the region and its interference in the regional affairs especially now that the American military presence is facing increasing popular opposition. The U.S. wants to prolong its presence in the region and pretend that the regional countries demand so, KAYHAN HAVAI said.

The paper voiced the conviction that the U.S. will be the major pillar of such a pact, because, Washington is well aware that it cannot achieve its interests without having direct presence or without directly interfering in the volatile Persian Gulf region especially that the southern littoral sheikhdoms lack adequate manpower.

'KAYHAN HAVAI' also believed that certain other countries besides the Persian Gulf reactionary regimes may be included in the pact. It speculated that Egypt as one of the most powerful Arab countries depending on the West, as well as Pakistan and Turkey may join the pact.

The paper said Turkey play [as received] a more important role as it is more trusted by the West and more influenced by it culturally. It is also a member of the U.S.-led NATO military pact and therefore a proper link between NATO and the future regional pact, it added. The weekly concluded that the U.S. success in setting up such a security arrangement and in defining its shape depends on the future developments and the way the present crisis will come to an end.

Editorial Comments on Gulf Future, U.S. Role

PM2409152090 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 12 sep 90 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The shaykhs in the region—the first victims of the new U.S. strategy"]

[Text] The threats posed by the new U.S. strategy in the Persian Gulf—whose execution the widespread military presence in the area will guarantee—will affect Washington's regional allies before affecting Saddam. U.S. interests dictate that a tamed Saddam would continue to keep the balance of power in the region, but it is just as important for Washington to be able to rely on the pro-Western governments in the area. The experience of Kuwait's occupation, with no resistance at all in 1 hour, once again proved the vulnerability of those regional governments which rely on the United States.

Of course the West has wanted to remedy this political weak spot for some time now. This is why following the changes in the Eastern bloc there has been open talk of the need to create some changes in the regimes dependent on the West on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf. But it seemed unlikely that political circumstances at that time would give the Americans the chance to put pressure on these regimes to make the necessary reforms. Without a doubt the United States will not always be able to act as it did during the bloody massacre of the pilgrims in 1987, when confronting the political and cultural atmosphere created by the Islamic revolution in Iran, since these types of reactions nurture political changes within their own bodies. The widespread programming of the Americans to use a proper excuse in the Persian Gulf proves that at least after Iran's acceptance of resolution 598, it had occupied the minds of all American planners for this region. Contrary to some views which claim that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait took the United States by surprise, we must once again stress that Washington was completely ready to take advantage of such an excuse, that it had even undertaken some indirect actions to speed up the process. What has caused the most concern for the Americans is not the small population or the small size of the pro-Western nations in the Persian Gulf, but the lack of the slightest political and social liberties there. These countries have so far managed to exist solely because of U.S. support, but with the changes that are occuring fast, will these governments continue to be able to guarantee to safeguard illigitimate U.S. interests?

On 4 September VOA [Voice of America] in a broadcast on Persian Gulf issues, outlined a part of the goals of the long-term interests of the U.S. troops stationed there: "The Persian Gulf crisis has given a new urgency to the need for governments and leaders to pay attention to their peoples' needs. One of the new aspects to come out of the latest crisis is the truth that suddenly the Arab peoples are not only talking about a redistribution of wealth but also of the need to have political freedom.

The future of freedom movements will be strengthened, not only in Iraq, but throughout the Arab world. The people will say: We want regimes that will be answerable to us."

The various methods that the United States is using are rejection of those superficial establishments that gave these regimes their legitimacy. Al Sa'ud, despite all its opposition to Islam, has so far pretended to be Islamic, in order to give its actions legitimacy. The United States has preserved this line with its presence in that country. Rejecting this line and forcing the Saudis to give up their superficial front, will, more than ever before, give the Americans room to undertake its new reforms. It seems the United States will use its military presence until the creation of the necessary changes in the politica set-ups of the shaykhs in the region. This, because as far as Washington is concerned, the only way U.S. interests will be safe from the cultural and political onslaught of the Islamic revolution, is to have governments that are more politically stable. Without a doubt the first victims of the reforms will be the shaykhs who so far, with U.S. backing, were not willing to listen to the voices of their peoples, even within the framework of a national parliament.

Commentary Views Oil Prices, Gulf Crisis

NC2409183790 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Sep 90 p 18

[Reza Qavi-Fekr commentary: "The Persian Gulf Crisis, OPEC, and Oil Price Fluctuations"]

[Excerpts] At the end of their talks—which were unofficial initially but then adopted an official nature—the petroleum ministers of the 10 OPEC member nations decided to temporarily increase oil production in view of the Persian Gulf crisis. However, our petroleum minister rejected this decision. Mr. Aqazadeh said that in case of an oil shortage, the oil consumer countries should first use up their own reserves, but the OPEC members agreed to increase oil production. [passage omitted]

What happened in Vienna on Wednesday was that the ministers of the 10 OPEC members gave the oil consumers the opportunity to continue purchasing and consuming oil at low prices and to leave their own oil reserves intact.

With this decision, the thirst of consumer countries and of large companies for reserve oil will not be quenched, and as long as there is a Persian Gulf crisis, there will be greed for oil. This has always been the case and it is more so now with the critical situation and the concern over oil shortages. It would be unwise for the OPEC members to feel sorry for the oil consuming countries immediately after the interruption in Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil supplies and to worry that they will face an oil shortage. The OPEC members should feel sorry for themselves and not for the oil consuming countries, which have already drawn up their plans for a rainy day. When during the life of OPEC were the industrial countries on our side that they should be on our side now? [passage omitted]

Since the first day of its formation OPEC has been a thorn in the side of the big oil companies. If it has been able to survive all the adventures that it has faced, it is because of the unity and solidarity among the majority of its members—members who have had great differences, both political and economic with each other.

Therefore, the possibility of using oil—which will remain the most important energy source at least until the middle of the coming century—as a strong weapon still exists for the OPEC members. OPEC members' oil resources can last 70 years, while the oil resources of the rest of the world can last 16 years. Though much lipservice has been paid during the past years to the need to find a fuel to replace oil, those who say this are well aware that the expenses of producing energy resources to replace oil are far higher than the price of crude oil even at its highest. Therefore, the situation is still to the benefit of the OPEC members. But the question is: Under the current positive and strong conditions, why did the ministers of the 10 member states panic, meet, and announce that they are increasing production and thus grant concessions to the consuming countries? The answer is clear: There have always been OPEC members who acted as an agent between this organization and the industrial countries. Not a long time has passed since 1982 when the OPEC petroleum ministers exerted their last efforts as ingenious doctors to save the life of a moribund organization—an organization that during a period of four years had dropped its production by four million barrels per day [bpd]; an organization that in 1979 produced more than 30.9 million bpd, and was producing 26.9 million bpd in 1980, 22.5 million bpd in 1981, and 18.5 million bpd in 1982.

Under such circumstances it would have been sufficient if Saudi Arabia had reduced production to save the life of a sick OPEC, but it did not. And now, eight years later, the OPEC member insisting on increasing oil production is Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, America's occupation of Saudi Arabia, which apparently will continue, is fanning the flames of this crisis and thus creating chaos in the oil market. Therefore, let us not forget the basic role that this factor plays. If, before the occupation of Saudi Arabia, this important OPEC member played only the role of an American element in the organization, now Saudi Arabia is America, and the impact of this will naturally result in new repercussions. With all this said, it is still unclear why bitter experiences do not become good lessons for the OPEC members. It is also not clear why the OPEC members have not realized that the increase in oil prices during the past weeks is only psychological and not technical or scientific. As long as concern about the Persian Gulf crisis exists, price increases will also exist. Therefore it is only natural that the recent decision by a number of OPEC petroleum ministers in Vienna is unable to stop worries and to prevent psychological impact. The situation now is such that no logical step can harness prices, and we should wait and see what the fate of the Persian Gulf crisis will be.

RESALAT on Geopolitical Changes in Region

NC2609062090 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
6 Sep 90 pp 1, 16

[Mohammad Sarafraz editorial: "The Political Geography of the Region"]

[Excerpts] A glance at the situation of the countries in the region that are in some way involved in the Persian Gulf crisis would enable a more intensive assessment of the situation.

1. Jordan's King Husayn has extended his political life through his "brokerage" in the aftermath of the Iraqi attack on Kuwait, and has renounced many Arab and Western countries in the bargain, so that he may not be faced with an impasse.

If the Jordanian monarch is forced to choose between Iraq and the United States, his political days will be numbered. Jordanian public opinion is vehemently opposed to choosing "the United States"; however, if "Iraq" is chosen instead, Israel would attack Jordan and send all the Palestinians of the West Bank and the occupied areas into the region. Consequently, King Husayn's monarchy will be thrown to the four winds.

Jordan is now in the throes of a crisis and faces a three-pronged threat from Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Israel. If the regional equilibrium is shattered, Jordan will be the sacrificial victim of a greater conflict.

2. Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has constantly tried to capitalize on all crises to the maximum. During the Iran-Iraq war Ozal tried to bolster Turkey's economic position by selling goods to Iran and exporting oil to Iraq.

Turkey wants to benefit from this situation as well. It has announced figures of losses incurred from the regional crisis, which are far greater than the actual figures. In order to embroil Turkey more actively in the crisis, the United States has promised to waive all its payments in arrears and has promised economic assistance.

The Turkish parliament has also given permission for foreign forces to enter the country and for the dispatch of forces to all the countries.

In the event of Saddam's downfall, Turkey would want a change in the region's geography and Iraq's dismemberment. Under such circumstances, Turkey would have its eyes on the oil-rich and opulent Kirkuk reigon of Iraq, ensuring an inexhaustible source of foreign exchange earnings for itself, and a reliable source of energy for NATO. [passage omitted]

3. Hafiz al-Asad seems to have received a golden opportunity to achieve his objectives. The West needs Syrian assistance in resolving the present crisis against Iraq, and Syria wants to set up a government of its own choice in Lebanon. In the short-term, such a government would be to the detriment of Israel, but the Untied States considers Syria quite controllable.

With France's concurrence, Syria would be able to remove Michel 'Awn from Lebanon's political scene. However, it seems that at this juncture Israel will not be able to help 'Awn.

In the short term, Syria would resolve its problems with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the subject of Lebanon. With the release of the Western hostages, Syria's position would be strengthened in Lebanon.

4. Saddam will not have much chance to choose a course of action. [passage omitted]

If Saddam waits until the dragnet of the economic embargo is tightened against Iraq, he will not have much chance of survival. A country debilitated by an embargo will easily be defeated.

The only path open to Saddam would be to destroy the present regional equilibrium and to direct its attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia. This would disrupt the entire regional balance as well as the coordinated U.S. initiative.

If the United States loses its initiative in an attack on Iraq, it is possible that will incur the opprobrium of the regional states, because of its presence.

5. The Islamic Republic of Iran can continue the policy of being a "third party" because leaning toward any of the sides involved in the conflict will be detrimental.

While we should not support the losing side, we should continue to stress our opposition to the continued presence of foreign forces in the region. Iran can make the necessary forecasts—namely ways to increase oil production—to meet the conditions which will ensue if the crisis worsens.

Commentary Views Saudi Oil Production Increase

NC2409175590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Sep 90 p 16

[Political commentary by Seyyed Mas'ud Jazayeri: "National Interests in a Crisis"]

[Text] The Saudi regime's efforts to boost its oil production stems from two considerations other than financial:
—To maintain continued cooperation between Japan, European countries, and the United States;
—To maintain a strategic link between the regional reactionaries and the United States.

The security of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as its national interests are related to the situation in the region. The crisis resulting from the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait is based on ensuring national interests (according to the current terminology of powerful systems). It provides scope for assessing past performances for attaining the means for effective action in ensuring the country's national security.

The Gulf Cooperation Council's approach to the usurpation of Kuwait negates, more than anything else, the opinion that the Islamic Republic of Iran should join with these countries. The special form of the sovereignty and political-military ability of these governments is such that all kinds of strategic cooperation with them necessitates certain considerations which do not conform with the essence of the Islamic Revolution. The consideration of their "own interests" by the reactionary regimes in the recent oil issue has eliminated all kinds of doubts in this regard.

Certain schools of thought favoring cooperation with the neighboring littoral states of the Persian Gulf for military reasons and for purposes of security. Some merely advocate political cooperation. On the basis of the aforementioned reasons, both these opinions are rendered "ineffective," even if we assume that the doubts among the neighbors regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran have decreased and Tehran is treading a smoother path in its policy.

With regard to the above issues, certain elements in the countries that are leaning toward the West and the safeguarding of its interests have always been present. As long as this state of affairs continues, any move toward them would be demeaning.

These countries feel free to lean toward the United States and the West, which is in itself a kind of pressure that constantly threatens Iran's interests. On the other hand, the United States—which believes its long-term interests lie in the greater dependence of these countries—will definitely embark on campaigns to combat any moves to distance these countries from itself.

It is here that a conflict of interests lies between the Islamic Republic of Iran as a center of the Islamic Revolution, and the United States as a center of world arrogance. Therefore if the two links mentioned above were to be forged, the West would tolerate it only to the extent that such a trend would (in its own estimate), be effective in bringing about changes in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and secondly would not hamper its policy of being able to exert pressure whenever it deems it necessary.

In such circumstances, without attempting to draw conclusions, two points need to be made:
1. It is worth examining what the West will lose in a Kuwait-Iraq merger.
2. The Baghdad regime—despite its understanding with its other associates in the region and on the international level—did not see any way to attain a proper political atmosphere, and to ensure its security and national interests, other than crossing over to Kuwait.

Of course, there is no doubt about condemning the Iraqi regime's avarice (in the light of its nature) but the low keyed political moves to restrict U.S. domination of the Persian Gulf are also very manifest.

Editorial Reviews Helsinki Summit, Gulf Security

PM2609131090 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 19 Sep 90 p 22

[Editorial by Majid Amjad: "The Heads of State Summit and the Difficulty of Security in the Persian Gulf."]

[Text] The holding of a heads of state summit in Helsinki showed that despite all the mass media propaganda about the possibility of a military clash in the Persian Gulf, the trend is toward diplomatic solutions.

In this midst there was the visit to Tehran by Tareq 'Aziz and the announcement of the establishment of ties between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union, which clarified other aspects of the Persian Gulf crisis. It is also very easy to understand how Iraq's tactic of accepting the Algiers Accord,the process of improving ties with Tehran, and Iraq's effort to keep Moscow in its camp have made the West worried. This political hurdle, quite apart from the Persian Gulf's geopolitical position, is being placed in the West's calculations and plans more and more.

During the Helsinki summit, Bush openly and in front of the whole world promised that after the Persian Gulf crisis he would pull every single one of his forces out of the region. He also gave serious guarantees regarding the Soviet Union's current security consideration along its southern borders. Both sides also agreed to carry out the UN resolutions carefully and to stay away from any type of military action. After that, Brzezinski anounced that U.S. troops must not be sacrificed for the sake of Kuwait. All these things show that the United States prefers more than anything else the safeguarding of Saudi Arabia and in reality its own military position. In this way the idea of taking back Kuwait by military means has definitely lost its color in U.S. strategy because one can see how much diplomacy has gained in terms of efforts to solve the Persian Gulf crisis.

Now, what is certain is that the West has found out that security in the Persian Gulf is a lot harder to attain than simply by having a miitary presence. If the reactionary regimes in the Persian Gulf are putting severe pressure on the United States to carry out a swift and short military operation as punishment, it is because a short military operation would punish and get rid of Saddam, thereby ending the crisis quickly and will also provide adequate groundwork for the U.S. troops to leave the area as soon as possible to save that country from presures of public opinion. The governing systems in these countries are based on tribal regimes without the smallest sign of any democratic body in them. This is considered as the weak point of these regimes in the face of any popular opposition. In addition to that, these countries have proven that they are not in a good position for the United States to pursue its goals. U.S. policy in the region, after the two-pillar policy, was based on the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council]. The formation of the Rapid Deployment Force showed from the beginning that the new U.S. strategic pact, the GCC, has little military capability to allow the United States to achieve its goals.

This is why the long-term or even the medium-term U.S. military presence in the region is a basic problem, and tendencies in the area to solve the issue by diplomatic means will add to this problem. It also shows well how vulnerable the United States is when it comes to a major development such as a military attack against its allies in the area. This issue becomes even more clear after the secret meeting between the U.S. ambassador with Saddam and the Iraqi foreign minister, as well as Washington's knowledge of a possible Iraqi attack against Kuwait being revealed by Iraq last week, a few days after the Helsinki summit.

The second issue is that because security is a complex matter in the Persian Gulf, Europe is not ready to back the United States all the way. Despite a military presence, it is seriously trying to avoid a full-scale military showdown with Iraq.

Third, the position of the Soviet Union in these circumstances is very important. UN Security Council resolution 665 has a second clause that echoes Moscow's views on continued diplomatic efforts to try and solve the Persian Gulf crisis. This shows well that it would be very hard to get an international agreement to attack Iraq on Kuwaiti soil or in its own territory. This is why coinciding with Tariq 'Aziz's Tehran visit, which brought to the front the possibility of a strengthening of the Soviet position in the region, the West announced that it approves of Moscow establishing ties with Saudi Arabia in an effort to create a balance with Moscow. In this way we see that as the chance of a military clash in the Persian Gulf becomes more difficult and more unlikely, the United States has decided to take Iraq out of its current deadlock. It appears to be very worried. But despite all this, the Persian Gulf crisis will in the end deliver the biggest strategic blow of the 1990's against the Yankees. It will prove that the holy land of the Hejaz is not a place for U.S. troops to walk on.

Commentary Reacts to British Official's Remarks

NC2109193190 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Sep 90 p 2

[Commentary: "Britain—Reviewing Hostile Policies?"]

[Text] William Waldegrave, Foreign Office minister on Middle Eastern affairs in the Thatcher government, said on Saturday during a BBC interview: The support by Syria and Iran for the efforts to end the Persian Gulf crisis may improve these two countries' relations with Britain.

Waldegrave added: The Persian Gulf crisis which stems from Iraq's aggression on 2 August helped both Iran and Britain to understand that they have general and specific interests in improving relations. He said that the solution of the three problems—the British hostages in Lebanon, differences on Iran's threats to execute British author Salman Rushdie, and the imprisonment of British citizen Roger Cooper in Tehran—are of vital importance.

With regard to the remarks by the British minister and as far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned, there are two points that should be clarified:

1. Both this remark and the remarks by British statesmen last week are precisely indicative of their willingness to reconsider their hostile policies toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. If the British government wants to reconsider its past erroneous and spiteful policies and to

undertake to give up its hegemonistic and extortive policies of the past and be content with reciprocal and just relations, the path toward improved relations is open. But if the British statesmen continue to foster the desires of British imperialism, the green light given by this British official will be in vain. There is no need for Mr. William Waldegrave to pretend to care about the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The world's current conditions are such that anyone with a sane mind can understand that the Islamic Republic of Iran is under the best of conditions. The remarks by this British official only show that the Thatcher government is seeking its own vital interests by improving its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

2. Further to the above point, the British government should never doubt the Islamic Republic's allegiance to Imam Khomeyni's death edict on Salman Rushdie and that it considers the case of the British spy Roger Cooper to be separate from other issues. London cannot be hopeful about improving its relations with Tehran unless it understands this point.

ABRAR Criticizes British Attitude

NC2509183990 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 Sep 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Britain Still Has a Problem"]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In his interview on Channel Four on British television, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd called for the elimination of all obstacles to establishing diplomatic ties with Iran. He said: "Iran and Great Britain should resolve the issues of the British hostages in Lebanon, the issue of the execution sentence against Salman Rushdie, and the incarceration of the British businessman (!) Roger Cooper."

The problems that Douglas Hurd listed, which he calls obstacles to ties with Iran, are in fact Britain's own problems.

Iran has no connection with the British hostages in Lebanon. The clear statements by the Islamic Republic's officials about Western hostages in Lebanon have been reiterated on many occasions. Iran has stressed that it is only prepared to use its influence among the Lebanese Muslims for humanitarian reasons, but the West has to reciprocate similarly, and it should put pressure on its agents in Lebanon and the Zionist regime for the release of Lebanese and Palestinian hostages, as well as the four Iranian hostages.

Ostensibly, it appears that the West, including Great Britain, has preferred a unilateral attitude and are not prepared to persuade the Phalangists and the Zionist regime to release the Muslim hostages. The Muslim revolutionaries will not overlook this.

According to Hurd, another problem in forging relations is the issue of the Islamic and historical decree by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—blessings of God be upon him—regarding the author of "Satanic Verses."

Two opinions are voiced about this, with the same results: first, that the Islamic decree on the writer of the defamatory book "Satanic Verses" is a political-divine decree. The other opinion is that the decree for Salman Rushdie's execution is a religious decree and not related to politics. [passage omitted]

This is not the first time these opinions are being voiced. The injunctions of Islam are so clear and obvious, and so much has been said on the subject, that not only the Muslims, but all the people in the world, know about the subject.

Now, it is not known how Douglas Hurd can link the fate of British ties with Iran to the Islamic injunction on the author of "Satanic Verses" and call it obstacles to ties between two countries.

It is hoped that with the declaration of the British Government's stance on Islam, the blasphemy against the divine religion, and the Muslim sanctities, all ambiguities on the subject have been resolved for London. Following the declaration of the British Government's stance, our Supreme Council for National Security announced that all obstacles to ties with Great Britain have been removed.

However, the spy Roger Cooper—Britain now chooses to call him a businessman—is serving his sentence, according to our judicial authorities. Thus, in the light of the above, the problems of the British pertain only to their own thinking and interpretation and their government's policy, but there seems to be different murmurings emanating from Geneva.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Party Leader Warns of Antigovernment Plots

BK2609002490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1533 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 25 (AFP)—The Nepali Congress Party Tuesday cautioned the Nepalese people to beware of elements seeking to damage cordial relations between the people and King Birendra. Basu Risal, the joint secretary of the Nepali Congress Party which dominates the coalition government, warned in a statement that "regressive elements" were seeking to undermine relations with the king.

He also asked the Council of Ministers to make provisions to overcome problems that he said arise in the course of national development under a democratic constitution. He expressed confidence the new draft constitution would clarify the basic structures of the multi-party system and constitutional monarchy as promised during the pro-democracy protests which ended in April with the abolishment of the previous partyless Panchayat system.

Mr. Risal revealed that the Cabinet on Sunday requested the king remove "uncertainty" surrounding the draft constitution by giving it his stamp of approval as soon as possible. He warned in his statement that those concerned with removing uncertainty and maintaining stability should understand that the people's representatives should be provided with full powers to effectively run constitutionally constituted bodies.

Political analysts here viewed Mr. Risal's statement as a warning to certain royal family members and former Panchayat leaders allegedly seeking to retain full powers in the hands of the king. The Council of Ministers said Monday it had reached a consensus on the fundamentals of the draft constitution and had agreed to ask the king to set a date to promulgate it.

Communist Leader Comments on King's Powers

BK2709104590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0957 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept. 27 (AFP)—The leader of the pro-Soviet Nepal Communist Party (NPC) Thursday called for the king's powers to be clearly defined in the country's new constitution. NPC General Secretary Krishna Raj Verma said in a statement that the constitutional powers of king, who would be acting on the advice of the cabinet, had to be "clearly mentioned" to ensure due honour and respect was paid the monarch.

Mr. Verma also called for the "fundamentals of the constitution" to be made unchangeable and that the House of Representatives (the Lower House) should have adequate powers. Members of the royal family should not be involved in business, Mr. Verma added, in an apparent reference to several who are believed to be involved in the tourist industry, one of the country's main earners of foreign exchange.

The general secretary also called for a simple majority in Parliament to ratify any treaties or agreements rather than the current proposal in the draft constitution for a three-quarters majority, which he said would hamper the executive branch and possibly harm the national interest. The Council of Ministers of the coalition government announced here earlier this week that they had reached a consensus on the fundamentals of the new constitution and had asked King Birendra to set a date for its promulgation. After pro-democracy protests across the country in April the king agreed to the introduction of a constitutional monarchy, appointing an interim government to draw up a new constitution ahead of elections next year.

Bhutan

NCP Leader Asks Bhutan King To Aid Democracy

BK2709073090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0638 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept. 27 (AFP)—The general secretary of the ruling Nepali Congress Party [NCP], Girija Prasad Koirala, appealed Thursday to Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuck to give up his alleged policy of confrontation and pave the way for the establishment of a multi-party democracy in Bhutan. In a press statement issued here Mr. Koirala said that "in keeping with the aspirations of the Bhutanese people and before things get out of hand, the king should take note of the winds of change in the world."

The Nepali Congress leader was reacting to reports of clashes last week between dissidents of Nepalese origin who had crossed the border from India into southern Bhutan and government troops. "The Bhutanese Government's barbarous repression of the unarmed Bhutanese people waging a peaceful struggle for the establishment of multi-party democracy and human rights as reported by the international media has shocked all of us having faith in democracy," he said.

The Bhutan People's Party claimed Monday that more than 200 people were killed in the clashes. An official of the Bhutanese embassy in New Delhi said there had been "some violence" but added that the casualty figures given were "absolutely unbelievable." Bhutanese of Nepalese origin are the majority in southern Bhutan and form 30 to 40 per cent of the total Bhutanese population. They accuse the government of discriminating against them in employment and violating their human rights.

Troops Kill Pro-Democracy Protesters 20-25 Sep

OW2709052290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0449 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept. 27 KYODO—Troops in Bhutan fired indiscriminately at pro-democracy demonstrators in six different districts of the Kingdom killing at least 327 people between September 20 and 25, according to reports reaching Kathmandu on Thursday. The demonstrators were pressing for the granting of a 13-point demand which includes allowing a multiparty democracy and human rights for every citizen of the Himalayan Kingdom, which is bordered by China to the north and India to the south.

A member of the Bhutan support group of Nepal, C.J. Himali, quoted the reports as saying that nearly 500 people sustained bullet wounds in the Army crackdown, and an estimated 2,000 others were arrested. A large number of demonstrators were missing and are believed to have been killed in all of the six districts, according to the reports, which were signed by office holders of the

Bhutan Peoples' Party, the Students' Union of Bhutan, and the Peoples' Forum for Human Rights in Bhutan.

The districts where the demonstrations were organized were named as Phuntsoling, Chamarchi, Samchi, Sibsu, Galefu, and Samrang. In Samrang, the Army forced fleeing demonstrators onto a suspension bridge blocked at one end and killed over 100 of them, according to the reports. They said 176 people were reported killed in Samrang on September 21.

Of the 15 killed at Samchi, one person was allegedly shot inside an army vehicle after he was arrested. At Chamarchi, near the Bhutan-India border, the demonstrators were able to retrieve eight dead bodies, including that of the district post master, after the Army action, the reports said.

Meanwhile, the General Secretary of the Nepali Congress Party, Girija Prasad Koirala, appealed to the Bhutanese monarch, King Jigme Singye Wangchuk, to pave the way for the establishment of multiparty democracy in Bhutan. Koirala said in a statement released in Kathmandu that the "barbarous repression" of unarmed Bhutanese waging a peaceful struggle for multiparty democracy and human rights had shocked all who had learned of it.

He said any attempt to confront the people's strength would be disastrous in this age when tyrannical regimes are falling one after another like a house of cards. The Nepali Congress, which spearheaded Nepal's popular movement for democracy earlier this year, forms the dominant partner in the present interim government of Nepal.

Pakistan

Court Grants Bail to Former Bhutto Minister

BK2709040690 Hong Kong AFP in English 2110 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Sept 26 (AFP)—The Provincial High Court here Wednesday [26 September] suspended a one-year jail sentence given a former minister of deposed premier Benazir Bhutto and ordered his release on bail, court sources said.

Ghulam Akbar Lasi, 48, ex-minister of state for labour and manpower, was the first official in the previous government to be sentenced [after] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked Ms. Bhutto and her government on August 6 for alleged corruption and abuse of power charges.

He was convicted on Sunday [23 September] by a magistrate at the town of Lasbella in Balochistan Province following his detention by police earlier this month.

Mr. Lasi was pronounced guilty on the charge of exceeding the limit prescribed for campaign expenditure in the November 1988 elections that brought Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party to power.

Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Mir Hazar Khan Khoso granted interim bail to Mr. Lasi in the sum of 25,000 rupees (about 1,140 dollars), court sources said.

The court will hear his petition challenging the conviction on September 30, they said.

Paper Criticizes Pan-Islamic Gulf Force Plan

BK2509163090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Sep 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan and the Gulf"]

[Text] According to a U.S. daily, Pakistan's caretaker government has floated the idea of a "pan-Islamic" force replacing the U.S.-led multilateral forces in the Gulf, signalling its willingness to contribute as many as 100,000 troops to the effort. If there is any truth at all to this report, then it is a matter of utmost concern to the nation for such a course of action could well have unpredictable consequences for our future. Apart from the merits of the idea itself, what is surprising is that it has reportedly been espoused by the caretaker government which was supposedly inducted into office for the sole purpose of holding free and fair elections in the country. Subsequently, it added accountability to its one-point agenda. Now, without any mandate whatsoever from the people of Pakistan, is it taking fundamental decisions in the area of foreign policy and defence with long-term implications for national security? Going by the report, the supposedly pan-Islamic force will be made up mainly of troops from Pakistan, Egypt and Turkey. There is no mention of our Muslim neighbour Iran. Not too far back we were being told that a "strategic consensus" existed between the three Muslim countries of Pakistan, Iran and Turkey. Now, suddenly we seem to have a pan-Islamic project in which obviously Iran has no place. Some insight into the reported proposal of dispatching a large military contingent to the Gulf is also provided by comments supposedly made by senior officials. It is being contended, it seems, that U.S. pressure on New Delhi could effectively counter the "Saddam-Singh" axis. Do we need to relearn the lesson yet again, that our security lies not in Washington but in the resolve of our own people willing to defend their country to the last?

As for the official reported as saying, in effect, that 100,000 soldiers could be sent to the Gulf as Pakistan's armed forces were not short of manpower, we can only hope that he has been misquoted. For one thing, the strength of our armed forces, on which we spend the better part of our budget, is supposed to be commensurate with our security requirements. At this time, particularly, when much larger Indian forces have assumed a menacing posture on our borders, and refugees are streaming in daily into Azad Kashmir with horrendous stories about the campaign of terror let loose by India in held-Kashmir, it should be difficult to argue that we have soldiers to spare. In any case, our soldiers are not a mercenary force to be dispatched to fight and die in other people's wars—whatever the quid pro quo. It is one thing to send a limited contingent to defend the Holy Places of Islam—and not, presumably just the House of Saud—but to raise the number of our forces in the Gulf to anything even remotely approaching the proposed levels would be disastrous. It is in this context that we should review, too, the Saudi request for an armoured brigade. With all the armour and firepower already assembled, under US auspices, in the Gulf, the request appears to have little connection with Saudi Arabia's defence needs. But if acceded to, it could well enmesh Pakistan to an even greater degree in the Gulf crisis. Inasmuch as the report speaks of a pan-Islamic force displacing the bulk of US troops in the area, the scenario runs counter to the rationale being given by the upper echelons of our foreign policy establishment posting the proximity of US forces (in the Gulf region) to Pakistan as a measure of our enhanced security.

Commentary Hails Outcome of Khan's PRC Visit

BK2609141090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jaffery]

[Text] Much has changed in Pakistan as well as in China. What has remained unchanged is the depth, spread, and strength of relations between the governments and the people of the two countries. This was very comprehensively and convincingly demonstrated by the results of the four-day visit Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan concluded on 23 September. Although Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan has visited China a number of times in the past, the latest was his first as president of the country. To what extent China values its relations with this country was made abundantly clear by the Chinese gesture to allow the president of Pakistan to be the chief guest at the marvelously colorful inaugural ceremony marking the opening of the Asian Games.

When Pakistan's leaders visit China and the Chinese visit Pakistan, the occasion carries a great deal more than the mere formality of a friendly state visit. There is invariably a great deal of solid work to be done. It was the same this time too. In the first place the two leaders made a joint tour of the world horizon. During the recent past, the world has undergone epoch-making changes—some for the better, some fraught with incalculable risks and dangers. China's interest in these changes is [word indistinct], so is Pakistan's. It is highly comforting to note that both have what may be described as almost identical perceptions. This is not new, but it is a very meaningful plus factor, just the same. It means our two countries can respond to future developments in a more confident manner.

Over Kashmir, China has emphasized that it continues to believe that the problem should be resolved peacefully in consonance with the known and recorded resolutions of the United Nations. On the developments in the Gulf also, Islamabad and Beijing return nearly similar responses.

Pakistan-China relations are unique in many ways. Not the least significant is the fact that we work in harmony and constructive cooperation over a very vast area. This comradeship extends from cultural activity to endeavors in the field of defense and the development of capabilities of our defense forces. In the development of research facilities needed for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, Pakistan and China move in step and exchange of ideas as well as technology is now on more than a mere academic level.

In a comment widely quoted in the national press, the president of Pakistan has said that Pakistan and China consider from time to time the challenges they face and exchange ideas on how best to face these challenges. This speaks of the immense trust the two countries have for each other and how highly regard the value of the consultations.

The president's visit has contributed substantially to enlarging and enriching cooperation and joint enterprises on an exceptionally wide-scale and high level. Among the most notable is the promised Chinese cooperation in developing copper mine in the province of Balochistan. The help from Beijing in this field will be both in cash and kind. The financial assistance will be on very positive terms. The Saindak copper mining project is now on the road to a quick, systematic, and profitable scale. It is bound to be a big boon to the people of Balochistan in the direct way and to the people of Pakistan generally. Likewise, the Chinese are going to lend a hand in a big way to help Pakistan develop the Lakra coal mine. This project is also of great significance in view of the gathering clouds on the energy scene worldwide. Pakistan needs energy sources. Every addition to the country's energy availability is something to be welcomed with all enthusiasm, notably the promised Chinese nuclear power plant. In this context, China not only advocates greater South-South cooperation but is always ready to demonstrate how these ideas can be realized by dedication and practical steps. Pakistan is in full agreement with this philosophy and, together with China, offers an example of how these ideas can be achieved.

Sri Lanka

Colombo To Investigate Mossad Agent Allegations

Israel Said To Train Tamil

BK2409143290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1402 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, Sept 24 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Govermment Monday said it would investigate allegations made in a book by a former agent of Mossad that the Israeli secret service had trained Tamil rebels. "The government is taking action to investigate allegations contained in a report on the inner workings of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, that Tamil guerrillas have been trained in Israel," an official communique said.

The book "By Way of Deception: The Making and Unmaking of a Mossad Officer" was written by former

Mossad agent Victor Ostrovsky. The author was believed to be one of the Mossad agents in charge of training Tamil guerrillas, said the statement issued by the Presidential Secretariat.

According to a report on the book published here in the SUNDAY OBSERVER, the author claimed Mossad simultaneously trained both government security forces and Tamil rebels at two military camps in the same Israeli base at Kfar Sirkin. The book also referred to visits made to Israel by Sri Lankan military officials allegedly to buy arms with World Bank funds meant for the country's Mahaweli River diversion project.

"The government has directed that all allegations made in this book be fully investigated," the statement said. In April Colombo closed down the Israeli interests section at the U.S. Embassy here in line with an election pledge made by President Ranasinghe Premadasa who assumed office in 1989.

Israel had an embassy here until 1970 when the then government of Sirima Bandaranaike broke diplomatic ties. Mr. Premadasa's predecessor, Junius Jayewardene, allowed the Israeli interests section to open in 1984 after he sought and received Israel's help to train Sri Lankan security forces fighting Tamil separatist guerrillas.

Mr. Premadasa's decision to close the Israeli unit was lauded by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Arab states and most Muslim countries but Washington asked Colombo to reconsider its decision. Shortly after renewed fighting between government troops and Tamil rebels broke out on June 11, the Sri Lanka Pan-Arab Friendship Association headed by Parliament Speaker M.H. Mohamed said Israeli agents were behind the violence.

The association said Israeli experts angered by Colombo's decision to shut the Israeli interests section were using the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to "do their dirty job to destabilise the country." The SUNDAY OBSERVER cited passages in the book saying Tamil guerrillas were trained at an Israeli commando naval base on how to sabotage Dvora class fast patrol boats, the same boats Israel had earlier sold to Colombo for use against the rebels.

Commission's Task Detailed

BK2609120590 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1030 GMT 26 Sep 90

["OANA/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 26 (LANKAPUVATH)—President R. Premadasa yesterday appointed a one-man commission under the Commission of Inquiry Act with wide powers to inquire into and report on the allegations concerning Sri Lanka contained in a publication called "By Way of Deception: the Making and Unmaking of a Mossad Officer" published abroad. The commissioner is Mr. S.W.B. Wadugodapitiya, solicitor-general.

The commission will among other matters, inquire and report on references made in the book that Sri Lankan security personnel as well as members of a Sri Lanka terrorist organisation were trained by the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad. More specifically, the commission has been called upon to inquire into and report on:

"Whether any person, who has engaged himself in unlawful activity as defined by Section 31 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, has received training by the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad,

"Whether any members of the Sri Lankan security forces were trained by Mossad, and if so, whether any part of such training was imparted to any person who has engaged himself in unlawful activity as defined by Section 31 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act,

"Whether any member of the Sri Lankan security forces went to Tel Aviv, Israel, for the purpose of evaluating radar equipment for prospective purchase, and if so, whether they were deliberately deceived by being shown equipment inappropriate for the purpose,

"Whether Mossad was responsible for causing the preparation of a false feasibility report for a construction project in the Mahaweli development scheme which was funded by the World Bank and securing the award of a part of the contract so recommended to an Israeli construction company known as Solel Bonah, and that funds so obtained were utilised to pay for arms purchased for Sri Lanka from Israel,

"Whether any Sri Lankan has given information to Mossad that such funds were being used to purchase equipment for the Sri Lanka Army, and whether such information was true or false."

The commission has been called upon to submit the final report within a period of two months from today.

LTTE Attacks Gajabpura Village; Many Killed

BK2509095290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0820 GMT 25 Sep 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 25 (LANKAPUVATH)— An unknown number of villagers and Tiger terrorists are believed to have been killed in a confrontation lasting over an hour in the village of Gajabapura in Welioya last night, states a "DAILY OBSERVER" report. According to initial reports, the fighting had occurred when a large group of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists numbering about 75-100 attacked the village at about 2100 hours (local time). At the time of going to press the security forces who had rushed to the scene had found the bodies of four members of a family including the husband, wife and their two children. More bodies including those of terrorists were expected to be found as a search progressed for those killed and who had run away into the jungles. A soldier and a homeguard who were wounded from a rocket propelled grenade [RPG] blast have been admitted to hospital. According to police, the terrorists who arrived at the village at about 2100 hours (local time) have started firing RPG's and small arms when they were challenged by alert villagers. They were met with stiff resistance by the villagers who fought from small bunkers built closer to their homes. The terrorists have charged through the village throwing hand grenades at the bunkers and also taken away some villagers as hostages. Several of the attackers are also believed to have been wounded and killed. Security forces had been slowed down in rushing to the assistance of the villagers because of anti-personnel mines buried around the village. A search was under way this morning to locate any villagers who had run away into the jungles.

Meanwhile, at Akkaraipattu in the east and Vasivilan in the north, security forces shot dead five LTTE terrorists, according to security sources. Two of the terrorists were killed when an STF [Special Task Force] foot patrol retaliated when under attack by the 'Tigers' at Akkarapattu. The others were killed when snipers engaged three terrorists close to Vasivilan in Palali.

Defense Ministry Reports 23-24 Sep Fighting

BK2509133690 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Sep 90

[Text] No major encounters were reported between the security forces and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists in the northern and eastern provinces during the 24 hours ending at 1200 [0630 GMT] yesterday. A Defense Ministry communique said that in the Eastern Province a foot patrol of the Special Task Force killed one LTTE terrorist near Tirrukkovil. Two soldiers were injured when an Army patrol engaged in clearing operations at (Vadamaramullai) was attacked by a group of LTTE terrorists. It is reported that four terrorists died in this encounter. In Neeravia in the Batticaloa District, home guards who were on village security duty repulsed a terrorist attack on the village. A civilian was injured by terrorist fire. Soldiers travelling in a tractor between Kents Farm and Gajabapura in the Northern Province were attacked by LTTE terrorists. The security forces reported that two soldiers died in this encounter.

According to the communique, security intelligence sources reveal that the LTTE terrorist leaders are divided on several issues, including the forced conscription of youths in the northern and eastern provinces. Forced conscription is said to be one of the most unpopular activities of the LTTE terrorists in the northeast, which is hated by the large mass of the people. Some terrorist leaders have objected to the deployment of cadres from the areas other than the peninsula. Several LTTE terrorist leaders are reported to be moving in and out of the Jaffna Peninsula, trying to bring about a settlement.

The communique added that on the 22d of September 1990, an LTTE terrorist boat was destroyed by the Navy off the coast of Point Pedro. This boat was a (Kalga) class boat, 30 feet in length, powered by 225 horsepower [word indistinct] outboard motors and was fitted with two heavy guns. These types of boats are not manufactured in this country. It is said that among the seven who died when this boat was destroyed were two leading LTTE men.

The ship "MV Amazon" is loading a cargo of over 475 metric tons of food and essential items in the Colombo Harbor to be taken to Mannar Island shortly. The ship "MV Lanka Siri" is unloading its cargo of food and essential items at Point Pedro. The ship "MV Segiri" is loading over 600 metric tons of flour to be taken to Mullaitivu and Point Pedro. The ship "MV (Winco) Trader" is loading a consignment of food and essential items in the East Colombo Harbor. It will also leave for Point Pedro soon.

Government Troops Withdraw From Jaffna Camp

BK2609080590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0732 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Sept 26 (AFP)—Government troops Wednesday withdrew from the northern Jaffna Fort Army Camp, two weeks after breaking a three-month siege of the fort by Tamil rebels, military sources here said. They said the surprise move was "a military strategy" but declined to give details.

A military spokesman here said that the troops would be evacuated from the fort by evening but "they may have already vacated the camp." Guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had besieged northern Sri Lanka's main army garrison since fighting in the northeast broke out on June 11. Colombo ended the siege on September 13.

ICRC Asked To 'Take Over' Fort

BK2609114390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1108 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, Sept 26 (AFP)—Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said Wednesday he had asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to take over the Jaffna Fort in northern Sri Lanka that has been abandoned by government troops. But Mr. Wijeratne told reporters here that the government would take effective action if guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) captured the 350 year old fort.

Troops vacated the fort Wednesday, two weeks after liberating 175 soldiers and policemen from the northern peninsula's Army garrison that had been under LTTE siege for three months. Mr. Wijeratne said he told the head of the ICRC here, Phillipe Comtesse, that the ICRC was at liberty to "walk into the fort" and facilitate the reopening of the Jaffna hospital close by.

LTTE Claims Capture of Fort

BK2609150690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1439 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] Colombo, Sept 26 (AFP)—The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Wednesday claimed that it had captured Jaffna Fort Army camp and denied Sri Lankan Government troops had made a voluntary pull-out. "The fort has fallen to LTTE hands. Heavy fighting has been going on around the fort since 2:00 a.m. today (2030 GMT Tuesday). Our boys are now occupying the fort," LTTE leader Lawrence Thilakar told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone from Paris.

Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said earlier that Colombo had pulled out its troops from the camp which they had relieved from an LTTE siege September 13 and had asked the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to take it over. He said the decision to abandon the fort was to facilitate re-opening the Jaffna fort hospital under ICRC supervision.

"Who cares. Let them say so. We will have the last laugh," Mr. Wijeratne said earlier when told that the LTTE could always claim that it had driven the army out of the fort. Denying that troops had made a voluntary withdrawal, Mr. Thilakar claimed that many weapons had been siezed form the garrison. "The government troops have fled to Mandativu and are preparing to withdraw from the there as well," the guerrilla leader said. Mr. Wijeratne warned that the military would take "effective action" if the LTTE tried to take over the fort.